

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

"THE RELIGIOUS DIFFICULTY."

In the able speech by which the Vice-President of the Committee of Council introduced his Elementary Education Bill to the House of Commons, he made light of what is called "the religious difficulty," not in itself, or as a difference "in theory and conscience between man and man," but in its bearing upon the kind of instruction to be imparted in public elementary schools. The right hon. gentleman expressed this conviction still more clearly and emphatically in the speech he delivered at Bradford shortly before the Parliamentary Session commenced. He then said of the religious difficulty, "It is a hill the height and steepness of which will be less and less as we approach its summit, and I am not sure that we shall not be able to canter along it. And why? Because when we come to deal with it practically, we shall be in the same position as the teachers in the country, who can obtain scholars independent of the religious difficulty. It is a difficulty raised up by talkers in theory rather than a difficulty in the subject itself." There is so much truth in this description, and at the same time so narrow and one-sided an application of it, that we venture once more to call the attention of our friends to its nature and effects.

What, then, is "the religious difficulty" which lies behind all practical plans of national education? In the main, it does not consist of the theological differences which divide Christian denominations from each other, or of the degree of importance attached to them by each. The non-established sects, for example, could easily agree in a common programme of elementary education, even though it should include religious teaching. It is not so much *what* is taught, but *who* shall have the general direction and control of public elementary teaching in this country, that is the ground of contest which now divides the kingdom on this question. The religious difficulty—nearly the only religious difficulty—that stands in the way of a complete national system of education, is, and from the beginning has been, State-Church ascendancy. The real struggle is not one of creeds, but of position—not one of position merely, but of position assigned by law. If there had been no legally privileged denomination lording it over all other denominations, in virtue of the favouritism exhibited

towards it by the Legislature—if the clergy of this privileged denomination had been accustomed to bear their artificial and unjust elevation above their fellow-workers meekly, and had evinced a disposition to recognise the efforts of men as sincere and able as themselves to build up the Christian Church—if they had not first of all obstructed the work of popular education, then denominationalised it, then claimed it as exclusively their own, then worked it as long as possible in an illiberal and exclusive spirit—there would probably have been no great—certainly no insuperable—difficulty in settling this question long since upon a broad basis. Mr. Forster sees no difficulty in so arranging his plan that the chief management of the people's education shall be handed over to this same privileged clergy, because he seems to think that it can signify nothing, or very little indeed, to the children educated, and because the parents of such children are, in point of fact, utterly indifferent to the prevailing distinctions of religious belief and practice. And hence he ignores it in relation to the question with which he has undertaken to deal.

But what if the difficulty, even in its relation to the question of elementary education, will not admit of being ignored? It is all very well to ask, as some do, will you endanger the organisation of a complete system of national education by bringing your denominational differences to bear upon it? The reply is, we do nothing of the kind. We have never asked for it. We do not want it. We desire the very opposite of it. The Bill is not framed upon the hypothesis that we shall prefer it, but upon the hypothesis that the State clergy cannot be prevailed upon to part with their ecclesiastical exclusiveness and ascendancy in relation to this matter. And it is drawn with a view to indulge them in their ideas, not only in regard to existing schools, but in regard also to the new schools to be created under its authority. Not a word of favouritism appears upon the face of the measure. As we said last week, the only mention of religious instruction in the Bill is in the 7th Section, which sets forth in one of its sub-sections a stringent "conscience clause." But the machinery by which the Bill proposes to carry out its object could hardly have thrown the education of the people more completely into the hands of the clergy of the Established Church, if it had been specially devised for that purpose. We need not go into detailed proof of this just now—albeit we shall be prepared to do it at the fitting time. It will suffice to point, in confirmation of our view, to the jubilant attitude of the clergy, and to the instinctive apprehensions already expressed by rural Nonconformists. The former candidly admit that their object is secured by the measure—the latter cry out that they are being betrayed by their professed friends into a position of inferiority which their bitterest enemies would not have dared to propose for them. This is not solving the religious difficulty—it is merely shutting the eyes to it.

The religious difficulty cannot be got rid of in this way. It cannot be "cantered over." It means far more than Mr. Forster has discerned in it. It is one of the phases—perhaps, in our day, the most important phase—of true national feeling as contradistinguished from devotion to a class. We don't want to be hampered and twisted in all the manifestations of our national

life by a privileged body, who claim to have special authority over the formation of mind and character, and of whose political and religious liberality history makes no mention. Neither will Nonconformists, neither will the working men, consent to set the stamp of denominationalism, which, in reality, means the stamp of Church-of-England ascendancy, upon the elementary education of the people for all time to come. We will not say that the Bill as it stands, cannot be passed—but it cannot be passed without calling in Toryism to shoot down Nonconformity and Radicalism. We say further, that having been so passed, it will settle nothing. It will be merely the initiation of a new struggle in which ecclesiastical privilege will be sure in the long run to go to the wall.

Very little is to be gained by pooh-poohing feelings which pervade two-thirds at least, in point of numbers, of the social body. This Bill hands over to the Established Church the control of public elementary education in almost all parochial districts, and in not a few of the municipal districts. But this is not the result intended by the chief of the reformed constituencies, nor is this what, if constitutionally appealed to, they would sanction. When they sent up their representatives to Parliament pledged to give religious equality to Ireland, they did not mean to act upon the opposite principle in England. They did not denounce "concurrent endowment" in one country, with any intention of supporting it in another. But this result, though not the object of the Bill, will be its effect. "My Lords" of the Privy Council, we fear, were more anxious to surrender the position to Churchmen, than to maintain the rights of those who are not in the Church. At any rate, this is what they have done. They will, perhaps, be astonished at the conflagration they will have kindled—but it is one which will cause them no small solicitude. "The religious difficulty" cannot be ignored. It will have to be met, not evaded or adjourned. Peradventure, it may grow less the more closely it is looked at—but it must be looked at, and not thrust aside. If ignored at all, let it be ignored for Church-of-Englandism as well as for Dissent—but let us not be told that it is insuperable on one side, and a mere theory of talkers on the other.

FREE CHURCHYARDS.

In prospect of the second reading of Mr. Osborne Morgan's Bill for the Amendment of the Law of Burials, Mr. J. Carvell Williams has written the admirable pamphlet, the title of which we give in a foot-note.* He has presented the case in support of the Bill with great completeness and power, leaving little unreported in the way of fact, and nothing unsaid in the way of argument. Full of information, logical in arrangement, and clear and vigorous in style, his pamphlet should be almost sufficient in itself to ensure the successful passage of the Burial Laws Amendment Bill through the Legislature.

It is of the last importance that the present state of the law upon this subject and its in human operation should be thoroughly known. The first section of the pamphlet is devoted to the former branch of the subject. It is pointed out how, by the ancient law of England, every

* A Plea for a Free Churchyard; or, The Case in Support of the Burial Laws Amendment Bill. By J. CARVELL WILLIAMS. Liberation Society and Arthur Miall.

parishioner has, and always has had, a right to be buried in the parochial churchyards. But, excepting he be a member of the Established Church, or a baptized person, that is all the right which he enjoys. A member of the Established Church possesses a privilege which no other baptized person possesses. He can be buried according to the rites of his own Church. Other baptized persons are denied this privilege, while the unbaptized are put out of sight as though they were vulgar carrion. Mr. Williams quotes, as he does all through his pamphlet, the text of the laws upon this subject. They belong, as it is needless to say, to the age when Dissent of all kinds was punished by the halter or the stake. They are as inhuman as they can be. They are as out of place in the present age as would be the Star Commission, the Tyburn gallows, the Smithfield fires, or thumbscrews and racks. To nearly half the nation they are sheer instruments of torture. They have been kept in force to the present time solely by clerical and priestly influence, which only needs a decisive expression of public opinion to overcome.

The only modification of these laws that has ever taken place has been through the operation of the Acts for the establishment of public cemeteries. These are a compromise between the old spirit and the new, but, as Mr. Williams remarks, "a compromise which, if it works fairly well, is, nevertheless, full of practical anomalies, as well as offensive to Christian feeling. For is it a Christian thing to divide dead Dissenters from dead Episcopalians by boundary stones and pathways, as though it might be said of those who were, perhaps, combatants while living, that

'E'en in their ashes live their wonted fires'?

Is the sight of two mortuary chapels when one would suffice an edifying spectacle?" However, we have been thankful to obtain this compromise, and it is not to our disgrace that after the souls of the righteous dead have risen to appear before a Judge that is no respecter either of persons or of sects, their once living and God-created tenements should be divided by ecclesiastical pharisaism and sectarian hate.

But this is nothing compared with the operation of the old laws. This pamphlet may be said to be packed full of instances of this operation. Mr. Williams divides these into three classes, giving numerous illustrations of each class. First are the Baptists, of whom the author writes:—

The author of the "Church Dictionary" explains that the burial office "is denied to infants not yet admitted into the Church by baptism; not so much to punish the infants, who have done no crime, as the parents, by whose neglect this too often happens," and who may, perhaps, be thus moved to be "more careful to accomplish the office in due time." Punishment is thus stated to be the object of the denial of the Church's last rite! but it is inflicted on thoughtful and pious men and women, who act from the highest motives, as well as on the thoughtless and the irreligious. And it falls on the innocent equally with those who, in the Church's estimation, are verily guilty. It "punishes" not only the members of the Church of England, but those who owe it no allegiance. This iron-handed law places the little ones of whom our Divine Saviour declared—"Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven," and adults who have done the noblest service to society and to Christianity, in the same category with the excommunicate person, who "ought to be taken of the whole multitude of the faithful as an heathen and publican," and with suicides, "who are supposed to die in the commission of mortal sin, and in open contempt of the Saviour and of His precepts."—(Sir John Nicholl.)

Yet, side by side with this indiscriminate uniformity, is to be seen the incongruity of a burial service painfully inappropriate in thousands of cases, where it is not merely allowed, but stringently enforced by law. For the same clergyman who is compelled to refrain from reading the service over the remains of the innocent and the virtuous, is also compelled to read it over the reprobate and the godless. He may not use words of hope and thankfulness in regard to the helpless infant: he must commit to the ground the body of the drunkard, the adulterer, and the thief, in "sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life"; must thank God "for that it hath pleased Him to deliver this our brother out of the miseries of this sinful world," and must beseech the Almighty, "of His gracious goodness, shortly to accomplish the number of His elect."

Instances of the operation of this law as against the Baptists are, as every one knows, of almost weekly occurrence. Amongst those reported by Mr. Williams is that of the Devonshire Canon "who told the father that he might bury his unbaptized child 'in the dusk,' without any form or procession, and acted with positive beneficence in comparison with some of his clerical brethren"; of the "Incumbent of Lower Heyford, Northamptonshire, who insisted that the grave should be dug in the night instead of the daytime, but assigned as the reason that 'the child had not been baptized, and was worse than an infidel'; and that this, instead of being a solitary ebullition of intolerant feeling, was in harmony with his general teaching, may be assumed from the fact, that the quarter of the churchyard devoted to 'unchristened' babies is known among the villagers as *Hell Corner*." "There are

also," says the author, "times when clerical deeds are even more revolting than clerical words. At Hinderwell, near Guisborough, in 1860, a woman was delivered of twins. One of them died in a few minutes, and the doctor, seeing that the other would not live, baptized it. It also died in a few hours, and then both the little ones were placed in the same coffin. The fact, unfortunately, came to the knowledge of the clergyman, and he insisted that the body of the unbaptized should be placed in one, and of the lay-baptized infant in a second coffin. When the interment took place, the person carrying the coffin containing the unbaptized babe was ordered to stand at a considerable distance from the grave, and when the service had been read over the other child, and the clergyman had got a proper distance, the other child was placed in its last resting-place."

Many instances of illegal acts are added to these, where the incumbents, from their sacerdotal proclivities, have refused to recognise the validity of Dissenters' baptism. This kind of intolerance most affects Methodists in the rural districts. There are other cases where the clergyman has outraged every feeling of humanity, as in Staffordshire, where a corpse remained unburied a whole fortnight in consequence of the refusal of the Rev. Rowland Henniker, of Cauldon, to perform the service. Of these and all such acts Mr. Williams writes, in an eloquent passage—

The depth of the suffering inflicted by such acts as those enumerated in these pages can scarcely be imagined except by those who have either themselves been victims, or have lived in the midst of the scenes which have been indicated, rather than described. There are no doubt individuals philosophic, or Christian enough, to regard with unmoved composure the silent interment of their loved ones, on whose destiny no funeral rite can, in their belief, exert the slightest influence. But to the great majority of the nation a religious service at the burial of the dead is a necessity, and its denial a source of anguish. Whether the denial be according to law, or in violation of the law, the effect is the same. Hearts already broken are smitten afresh, and to the visitations of Divine Providence, often hard to bear, are added the seeming indignities and the inhumanity of man. At a time when human minds most need the tranquillising and consoling influences of religion they are harassed by legal doubts and questionings—by sickening uncertainty, or by the stern refusal of that which would satisfy the cravings of the heart. At such a moment, the law, which should be the protector of the weak and the afflicted, assumes an aspect of almost wanton cruelty; while the infraction of the law by its official guardians—those guardians being ministers of the Christian religion—savours of the oppression which makes even the wise man mad.

It is proposed to abolish the law under which such indignity is inflicted and such suffering caused. For this purpose Mr. Osborne Morgan's Bill has been introduced. This measure has been studiously drawn with a feeling of great—perhaps too great—consideration for the present rights of the clergy, but it is probably the best Bill that could be carried at the present time. It leaves something of the old supremacy, but, perhaps, it is impossible entirely to get rid of that until we get rid of the State Establishment itself.

With regard to the objections of some of our correspondents relating to these and other points, we may say that they have been fully anticipated and carefully considered by those who have drawn the measure. As is explained in the *Liberation Society's* official journal of this month:—

The churchyard will still be vested in the incumbent on behalf of the parish, and, with the one exception that he will not be able to force his services on those who do not want them, his authority and rights will remain intact. He will even lose nothing in a pecuniary respect, it being provided that he shall have his fees, whether he conducts the funeral services or not. That he could in strict justice demand so much as this, we are not prepared to assert; but the object in view being, not a release from a pecuniary burden, but from a yoke of another kind, it has been thought wise to avert opposition to the bill, on the ground that it would diminish clerical incomes, or the value of the patron's rights. It will be further seen that care has been taken to prevent irritating conflicts between the clerical custodian of the churchyard, and those who will have to deal with him in that capacity only, and not, as heretofore, as the minister who is to conduct the burial service. If the clergyman so pleases, he may appoint the clerk, or his churchwarden, or his deputy, to receive notices from those who have charge of Dissenting funerals; the notices may go by post, and it is only in the event of the hour named being objected to as "inconvenient, on account of some other service having been, previously to the receipt of such notice, appointed to take place," in either the church or churchyard, that any action on the part of either the incumbent or his deputy will be called for. Practically, the whole matter will, in most cases, be in the hands of the sexton, and, even where there is any clerical interference, it will be limited to fixing some other time than that first named for the burial, and that on the same day, and within fixed hours.

It is to be conceded that the Bill does not secure all that we consider to be our rights. It is framed on the same principle that the past University Tests Bills have been framed, and probably it will meet their fate. If it should,

the clergy cannot again expect the consideration that is now extended to them.

To our own minds it has always been a source of wonder how Christian men could be found to uphold or carry out the present law. It should have been altered long ago at the instance, not of Dissenters, but of Churchmen. The degradation it involves touches them and their Church, far more than it does even ourselves—for the cruel man always really suffers more than the subject of his cruelty, and the sinner more than the person sinned against. In such a case as this, where humanity is outraged, and religion brought into disgrace, it would be fitting that Churchmen should come forward in a body to relieve their Church of the opprobrium that rests upon it in consequence of the present law. A "Free Churchyard" should, properly, not be wrung from them, but be a spontaneous concession.

THE IRISH CHURCH CONVENTION.

The Irish Primate has brought before the Convention the question of the advisability of adjourning its discussions. Assize and other matters of business have greatly thinned its ranks, or will do so shortly, and, as his Grace remarked, important questions could hardly be entered into with half a Convention. On Tuesday Lord Lifford urged that all irrelevant matters should be left out of the debates, as he had calculated that it would take seven weeks to finish their business, at the expense of 17. per minute while they sat, if they went on as they were doing at present. A clause of the first section of the draft constitution, setting forth that the Church of Ireland will maintain the three orders of bishops, priests, and deacons, and will continue to minister the wonted sacraments and doctrines, was agreed to. The second section, approving the Book of the Articles of Religion, Common Prayer, and other rites and ceremonies of the Church, was carried unanimously.

On Thursday, the Convention had under consideration clause 25, relating to the bishops' veto in the Synod. Mr. F. G. Bloomfield moved as an amendment that "Any measure passed by a majority of both clerical and lay orders, and rejected by the order of bishops, may be again brought forward at the next ordinary session of the General Synod, and if then passed by a majority of both clerical and lay orders present, and voting separately, such measure shall become law. Provided that no such measure shall be brought forward a second time until one year at least shall have expired." The debate lasted all day, and resulted in a division (by orders)—215 being for, and 301 against the amendment. The Duke of Abercorn then proposed an amendment, providing that if a question once rejected by the bishops shall be reaffirmed at the next Synod by not less than two-thirds of the House, it shall be deemed carried unless negatived by two-thirds of the bishops present and voting. The debate was adjourned. An effort was made to adjourn the sittings until after the assizes—some would have proposed until after Easter. The inconvenience which would attend a second visit to Dublin was, however, pleaded both by northern and southern members of the body, and on a motion the proposal to adjourn was lost.

On Friday, after the rejection of a batch of amendments, the much-discussed 25th clause of the Duke of Abercorn, giving the bishops the right to vote separately, and two-thirds of them an absolute veto, but requiring their reasons for dissent to be stated in writing, was passed. The vote has caused at least one secession from the Church, but it is not supposed that Lord James Butler's retirement will be the cause of any schism. He has been throughout the most violent opponent of the episcopal prerogative. He writes to the Archbishop of Dublin:—"The decision arrived at by the Convention yesterday, of placing in the hands of the bishops, 'for ever,' an absolute veto, being, as I consider, a departure from Scriptural precedent, a betrayal of the rights of the laity and clergy, and not only a desertion of the principles of the Reformation, but a return to those which were then condemned, and therefore a decision which will be repudiated by a majority of the Protestants of Ireland, I feel that in a Convention which proceeds on such principles in organising a Church in Ireland, intended to replace that which in 1871 will cease to exist, I have no longer a right to sit. To a Church so constituted, by whatever high-sounding name it may be called, I shall never belong. I therefore beg to place in your Grace's hands my resignation as a delegate for the diocese of Dublin."

At one of the sittings of the Convention, Mr. Bloomfield announced that he had heard from a gentleman that if the veto were given to the bishops, Miss Burdett Coutts would give 100,000*l.* to the Church.

REVISION OF THE BIBLE.

In a further letter to the *Times*, the Earl of Shaftesbury says that the Committee of the Bible Society desire for the present to remain altogether neutral relative to the proposed revised translation of the Scriptures. But his lordship adds:—"For myself, I have no intention to remain either neutral or silent, believing that a new translation of the Holy Scriptures into the language of modern days, though it will not affect in any degree our faith and doctrine, will produce a momentous and permanent change in the thoughts and feelings of every English-speaking people."

The Bishop of Ripon referred to the Bible translation question in a speech at Brighouse on Friday. It was, he said, a cause for thankfulness that the

Northern Convocation had declined to appoint a Committee for the purpose of considering whether or not it would be desirable to use means for bringing about a revision of the authorised version of the Holy Scriptures. It was not worth while, for the sake of adopting minor and unimportant changes, to disturb the universal agreement of opinion which exists among Churchmen and Nonconformists and English-speaking people all the world over as to the authorised version.

The Rev. F. E. Cook, Canon of Exeter, calls attention to the Speakers' Bible as now in progress:—"The first part, comprising the Pentateuch, is nearly all printed, and the rest of the work is in an advanced state of preparation. One of the chief objects of this commentary is to give a thorough revision of the translation. The authorised version is given without any change; but the correct rendering of every passage, where emendation has been found necessary, is printed in a conspicuous type below the text. Corrections which appear probable, but are not universally accepted by scholars, are also noticed and discussed. Most careful attention has been bestowed upon the state of the original text, especially in the New Testament. The list of writers on this Commentary, selected by a committee under the Archbishop of York, comprises the names of a large number of the ablest scholars of the Church of England. Their labours may prepare the way for a new translation of the Bible, should a work of such magnitude be hereafter undertaken."

The Rev. Stanley Leathes, Professor of Hebrew at King's College, and Boyle Lecturer, remarks that few Englishmen are aware of the extent to which the present translation of the Old Testament may be improved. He instances passages which he says are very good samples; they are well known to Hebrew scholars, though not to the public generally.

THE UNIVERSITY TESTS QUESTION.

(From the *Pall Mall Gazette*.)

A letter which we publish from a Cambridge correspondent draws attention to a matter which should not be allowed to drop. Mr. Gladstone gave a favourable answer to the deputations which waited upon him to demand the abolition of University tests. Some action in regard to them was promised in the Queen's Speech, and we have had every reason to hope that Government was determined at once to take up the subject in earnest. Hitherto, however, it has made no sign. Other matters have been advanced. Time has been found, for example, to draw the attention of Parliament to the abolition of compulsory pilotage; and we may hope that that important topic will be duly considered in the course of the present session. The abolition of University Tests interests quite as many people; and it might even have taken precedence of the pilots without exciting any considerable jealousy. It has, moreover, this peculiarity—that its passing depends upon its being sent up to the House of Lords in sufficient time and with a sufficient majority to ensure its due consideration. Of the majority there can be no doubt; but the Lords have already complained with much reason of being left with nothing to do in the beginning of the session, and overwhelmed with business at the end of it. They have proposed to remedy this evil by refusing to entertain bills sent up to them after a certain date, and it is highly probable that the Conservatives would gladly avail themselves of so plausible an excuse for once more shelving a troublesome question. This being so, it is clearly desirable that so simple a bill as that for the abolition of tests should be well started as early as possible in the session. Mr. Gladstone, however, held out no hopes of energetic action in the matter, in answer to Mr. Vernon Harcourt's recent question. What, then is the reason of the delay? Our correspondent suggests that the Government are anxious not to pledge themselves to the principle of abolishing tests in England for fear they should alarm the susceptibilities of the Irish members in regard to the Catholic University in Ireland. The explanation seems to be improbable, because it would be scarcely creditable. The Government is already pledged to the principle of abolishing tests, and all that remains doubtful is the warmth of their zeal in the cause. We cannot believe that they could be bidding for a little temporary support at the price of endangering a measure thoroughly approved by the whole Liberal party. We reject this explanation as unworthy of Mr. Gladstone's sincerity. We would rather hope that the measure has been somehow overlooked in the pressure of more important business, and that Government do not quite understand the force of the general desire to see a final and speedy settlement of the question. We would suggest, therefore, that it is the duty of Liberals to undeceive them as soon as possible by pressing for a clear explanation, and of the Government to afford such an explanation as may put beyond all possible doubt the sincerity of their intentions and their appreciation of the value of time.

CONVOCATION OF YORK.

The Convocation of the Northern Province met on Tuesday for business, in Archbishop Zouch's Chapel, at York Minster. The members of the Upper House present were the Archbishop of York (President), and the Bishops of Ripon and Carlisle. There was a full attendance of members of the Lower House. A petition was presented from the Deanery of Howden, condemning the present mode of appointing bishops, and urging that some means should be adopted for divesting the present system of election of its unreality. An interesting conversation also took place on the subject

of the extension of lay agency, and a resolution was passed declaring it desirable that the unpaid services of accredited laity should be still more extensively used, Convocation believing that such aid is absolutely necessary for the due fulfilment of the mission of the Church. A committee was appointed to confer with any similar committee from the southern province to devise a plan for carrying out this object. On Wednesday the question of education was discussed. A resolution was passed expressing general concurrence in the Government scheme, but reserving judgment upon some points, and a committee was appointed for the purpose of reporting upon the points in which it might be desirable for amendments to be proposed. Canon Hey introduced the subject of a revision of the authorised version of the Scriptures, and moved the appointment of a committee to confer with the committee of the southern province on the subject. The Bishop of Carlisle, who said he would on no account touch the present version, moved an amendment expressing thankfulness for the possession of a version accepted and valued by the English-speaking people throughout the world, and deprecating any revision which might lead to a complete recasting of the text. The Archbishop said there existed no necessity justifying the extreme step proposed by Canon Hey, and the movement was one which had taken everybody by surprise. The Bishop of Ripon expressed similar sentiments, and said Archdeacon Cusht had only seconded the resolution *pro forma*. The majority being evidently opposed to the resolution, Canon Hey wished to withdraw it. The amendment was then put as a substantive motion, and carried with only six dissentients. Convocation reassembled on Thursday. The several committees agreed to during the session were then nominated, and Convocation was afterwards prorogued until the 26th March.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN EMPERORS AND THE CHURCH.

That the Bishops of Rome did not pretend to rule the universal Church during the first three centuries, may be safely affirmed. No man then claimed that authority. It is tolerably clear, also, from the records of the first two Œcumenical Councils, that those Councils were neither convoked nor controlled by the bishops of Rome. At the two not one Italian bishop put in an appearance, though Silvester sent two presbyters to the first. But why presbyters? why not cardinals or archbishops, or at least bishops? Cardinals and archbishops were not then invented, so that their absence is easily explained. It is not so easy to say why, if Silvester was Vicar of Jesus Christ, that Vicar so little consulted the dignity of his office as to send a couple of elders.

The history of the fourth century reveals the fact that the Emperors were the real heads of the Church. No sooner does Constantine become the professor and patron of the faith, than the ecclesiastical atmosphere changes. The Church loses its autonomy and becomes a department of the State. Eleven years before he summoned the Council of Nicea Constantine called the Council of Arles, and thus originated a practice which long and widely prevailed. In one case he ordered a Council to meet at Rome, nominating those who should go, and bidding the Bishop of Rome and three others chosen by himself hear and decide in the case. This was the habit of himself and his successors. Eusebius says "He, as the common bishop appointed by God, used to convocate the councils of God's ministers." And Sozomen says, that after the Emperors began to profess the Christian religion, ecclesiastical matters depended on them, and, he adds "the greatest Councils were held, and are held, by their decision." Among the Councils called by Constantine, besides the three named, there are others known. Constantius, Valentinian, Theodosius, &c., followed in the same track. Constantine is called, and called himself in some sense a bishop, and the title of Chief Pontiff was borne by several who succeeded him. They gave orders for the building of churches, took part in the election of bishops, and sometimes attended the Councils they called, and confirmed their proceedings. They made laws affecting doctrinal and ecclesiastical questions, and they were the final appeal.

The roll of Roman Bishops during the fourth century is not one to be proud of. There were no fewer than eleven of them, and among them all it would be hard to name a man that distinguished himself by his piety or his talents. Liberius was timid enough to sign an heretical creed, and Damasus won his see by the slaughter of a hundred and sixty men who supported another candidate. This Damasus got a good deal of additional power, but he did not summon the second General Council held in his time, nor, as has been stated, was he represented at it. Siricius, who followed, made a little progress, but the century closed with the Emperors at the head of the Church.

At a time when the mediæval pretensions of the Popes are being revived, one is tempted to look over our authorities to see whether those claims have an historical basis. I have done this, and I find that in

the fourth century the edifice of State patronage and control rapidly rises, and towers aloft before our eyes, while the Church only appears in its shadow. True, sacerdotalism developed itself to an extraordinary degree, but it remained subordinate to the political power. The results to vital religion were terrible. Subsequently, when the Imperial glory waned, and not before, did Rome usurp the supremacy of the Cæsars, for which the Churches have basely bartered the right of self-government.

B. H. COWPER.

THE COUNCIL AT ROME.

At the Council on Tuesday, last week, the discussion—which had occupied two previous sittings—on the Catechism was brought to a conclusion. Seven of the Fathers spoke. Six more notices of business have been distributed. A decree has been issued having for its object the acceleration of affairs. It orders the assembling of the congregation every tenth day; and prescribes that the bishops, when the subject to be debated has been brought under their notice, are to present their observations in writing to the competent committee.

The correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes:—"It is now all but admitted that there will be a prorogation of the Council, and I hear the Pope's chateaux at Castelgandolfo and Porto d'Anzio are being prepared for those bishops whose dioceses are in distant regions, and who, consequently, cannot move to and fro. A number of absent bishops have sent to the Vatican their adhesion to the proclamation of infallibility; and, on the other hand, an address has arrived from the whole of the clergy of the diocese of Cologne protesting against the dogma."

A Paris telegram states that the French Government has decided, in consequence of the note which Count Beust has sent to Rome on the subject of the Papal Syllabus, to invite all the Catholic Powers to collective action against the pretensions of the Holy See. According to an analysis which has been published of Count Beust's note, the Papal Government is therein warned not to take any measures opposed to the Austrian Constitution, or calculated to lead to encroachments on Austrian State rights, and is at the same time informed that the Government will not permit any such encroachments. In sending this note, Count Beust is said to have acted entirely on his own initiative. He had been informed that canons had really been submitted for adoption to the Council, condemning laws which form part of the Austrian Constitution, and forbidding Austrian Catholics to obey those laws. He therefore thought it necessary to express his views on the subject at once.

It is stated that two English Roman Catholic Prelates are opposed to the declaration of the dogma of infallibility at the present time, namely, Archbishop Errington, who was coadjutor to the late Cardinal Wiseman, and is now Archbishop *in partibus* of Trebizond, without a diocese, and Dr. Clifford, Bishop of Clifton.

Correspondence from Rome published in the French papers states that the Pope is more and more devoted to the infallibility dogma, and is evidently disposed to pay but little heed to the opposition which it has aroused, especially in Germany. It is even said that in conversation with a Cardinal who was speaking to him of that opposition, his Holiness replied that the German Bishops might become schismatics if they liked, as the Church would thereby be "purified." The *Débats* remarks that purifications of this kind are not altogether without danger, and that they end by converting a great church into a small chapel. "The Roman Church," it adds, "was purified once, and on a somewhat large scale, it may be said, in the time of Luther. Can anything encouraging be found in this recollection?"

The *Moniteur* says:—"Letters received from Rome afford ground for anticipating that fresh steps are about to be taken by the Cabinet of the Tuileries to dissuade the Pontifical Government and Œcumenical Council from taking any decision opposed to the principles of the constitutional law of France. The French Government will especially insist upon the necessity of giving full liberty of expression to all the opinions represented in the Council."

A pastoral letter from Archbishop Manning was read in all the Roman Catholic chapels in London on Sunday. The Archbishop, after exhorting his flock to "fulfil without delay their duties of confession and communion," continues:—"A duty, the highest of all, detains us, and will detain us for a season till the work of God in this great Council, as it will be, has been surely done. The world is loud on every side, but the peace of God is in His Church, and the Spirit of God is shaping all things to His will." Dr. Manning exhorts the faithful to pray that "the power of God, moving upon the face of the waters, may create a new order of holiness and obedience, charity and peace, in the Christian world, so tossed by revolutions, and so sick at heart," and to pray also for the Sovereign Pontiff, "on whom the charge of the Universal Church is laid, that, in the power of the promise made to Peter, being so strong himself, he may confirm his brethren." The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* notes the remarkable concurrence of German Catholic opinion in condemnation of the attempt to set up the dogma of Infallibility. Cologne, Bonn, and Breslau have sent congratulatory addresses to Dr. Dollinger. Munster and Trèves, with other towns in their dioceses, have memorialised their respective bishops; and Munich itself has conferred its franchise upon the fearless advocate of Catholic freedom. The addresses and

memorials proceeding from these cities are signed, if not by a large number, at any rate by the most eminent of the inhabitants. In all these significant utterances, the subscribers more or less directly declare that for the Pope to push matters to extremity, and make himself a demigod, will be running the risk of provoking another schism. With the exception of one, all professors of Roman Catholic theology at the University of Prague, as well as eight other Catholic professors at the same institution, have declared in favour of Dr. Dollinger and his manly theses. As much has been done by Dr. Michaelis, a professor in the Catholic seminary of Braunsberg, and by some Croat notabilities at Agram, who have sent a glowing epistle to Bishop Strossmayer, the eloquent representative of their diocese at the Council.

Dr. Grant, Bishop of Southwark, who is at present in Rome, is suffering from serious illness, but immediate danger is not apprehended.

Several journals reproduce a very strange letter addressed by the French Bishop of Laval to one of his Grand Vicars. It runs thus:—"Rome, Feb. 7.—My dear M. Descars,—Much is still said in the diocese of Laval about Monsignor Dupanloup. We must put an end to all this. I declare here before God, and ready to appear at the judgment seat, that I had rather die, fall dead on the spot, than follow the Bishop of Orleans in the course he is just now pursuing, into which the authority ascribed to him seduces a portion of my diocesans. You do not know what he says and does here, or what is said and done by his adepts. I myself know full well; I hear with my ears, and see with my eyes. No—I would rather perish at this very moment than lend a hand to these incredible manoeuvres! I declare this, and shall repeat it to my latest sigh. I particularly request that these lines may be published at once and *verbatim*. I claim and take the whole responsibility on myself. If after that, I shall no longer be able to appear at Laval, I shall very humbly ask the Holy Father for permission to die at Rome. Adieu, my dear M. Descars! May this letter produce the greatest sensation in my diocese. I have no need to occupy myself with anything that may happen beyond its pale. Adieu.—CASIMIR-ALEXIS."

CHURCH AND STATE IN AUSTRIA.

(From the *Liberator*.)

We are gratified to be able to report a fact, which we certainly did not expect so soon to record—that is, the appointment of a Commission of the Austrian Reichsrath to consider the question of the separation of Church and State in that Empire. The motion came on on the 7th February, when Dr. Rechbauer moved resolutions in favour of entire separation of Church and State, obligatory civil marriage, and the complete repeal of the Concordat. The honourable member, addressing the House in support of his motion, said that it was now nine years since the late Dr. Muhlfeld had first introduced a bill into the Reichsrath for the settlement of the relations of the Church to the State, and many had been the phases through which it had passed. He would now again lay the same bill on the table of the House, and say that, at the present juncture, when Rome is making new efforts in applying her screws for systematic domination, nothing should be left undone to put a stop to the encroachments of the Church on the political life of the State. The first principle to be carried out was a complete separation of the Church from the State. The second principle was obligatory civil marriage. This latter law the State owed to family life. In this respect no half measure would satisfy. It must be a whole one. When marriage should be made a civil contract then family life would also be rendered safer. He recommended this proposition to the House with great warmth. Then passing on to his third proposition—namely, to the complete repeal of the Concordat—Dr. Rechbauer said that, when Dr. Muhlfeld had introduced his bill, the confessional committee, although perfectly agreed upon the principle, did not see its way clear in respect of the means to be adopted for its realisation. At that time great apprehensions were also entertained that not all the then legislative powers would agree to the measure. That position was now altered, in consequence of the Constitution that had, in the meantime, been created. None but the State had the right to dictate in matters pertaining solely to the State. He counted upon the support of the House, and equally so upon that of the Government, believing that the words spoken by the Minister-President, in his inaugural speech, afforded sufficient guarantees to warrant his doing so. ("Hear, hear," on the left.) The motion was to be referred to a committee of fifteen members, to be chosen by the whole House. This proposition was put to the vote, and carried, the Ministers, the entire Left, and also the Poles, having risen from their seats in favour of it.

The *John Bull* hears that the Rev. Dr. Barry will very probably be appointed to the see of Chichester.

Of sinecure rectories there are now in the Church of England sixty-two, with an average income of 300*l*.

The paper read by Sir J. D. Coleridge at Sion College, on the freedom of opinion necessary for an Established Church in a free country, and recently commented on in our columns, is published in the new number of *Macmillan*.

FATHER HYACINTHE.—The Pope has at last acceded to the incessant solicitations of his friends, and relieved Father Hyacinthe of his monastic vows. Father Hyacinthe is to become a secular priest, under the title of L'Abbé Loyson.

THE ANNUITY-TAX.—A deputation from Edinburgh, headed by Mr. McLaren, M.P., Mr. John Miller, M.P., and Baillie Lewis, had an interview with the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce at the Home Office on Friday, on the subject of the Annuity-tax Abolition Bill.

THE VACANT SEE OF ST. ASAPH.—Friday's *Gazette* contains an Order in Council declaring the see of St. Asaph vacant, consequent on the resignation of Dr. Fowler Short, late bishop of the diocese. His lordship is the third prelate who has availed himself of the provisions of the Bishops' Resignation Act, which received the Royal Assent in August last, while five other prelates have died since the passing of that measure.

THE VACANT IRISH SEE.—The *Evening Mail*, writing of the vacancy of the see of Kilmore, says that a rumour prevails to-day of the Government's being willing to appoint either Dr. Salmon, Professor Jellett, or the Dean of Ferns, each of whom is or has been a Fellow of Trinity College. The clergy of Kilmore (the *Mail* says) are understood to desire the appointment of the Rev. Charles Leslie.

MR. SPURGEON AND THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—We are asked to contradict a statement which appeared in a recent number, extracted from the *Christian World*, to the effect that Mr. Spurgeon had been requested by the Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance to withdraw from that society. The Secretary writes to us that neither the Council of the Alliance nor himself made a request of the kind.—*Record*.

THE ALLEGED HERESY OF THE REV. GEORGE GILFILLAN was under discussion in the Dundee Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church on Tuesday. He expressed his belief in the fundamental doctrines of the Church, and apologised for the way in which he had criticised the Confession of Faith and the Shorter Catechism. While doing this, however, Mr. Giffillan advocated a revision of the standards of the Church. The apology was accepted by the Presbytery, and the proceedings will be stopped.

AN OUTSPOKEN DEAN.—The Dean of Exeter, Dr. Boyd, presiding on Monday at a meeting of Irish Missions, at Exeter, said he had not been found for some time on the society's platform because he considered it the duty of Irish clergymen to do their own missionary work. He was not surprised at the collapse of the Church in Ireland, because he thought the clergy had brought it on themselves. He took, however, a hopeful view of the future, because the clergy, being left to themselves, would be found to make a better battle for their faith.

CLERICAL INTOLERANCE IN DURHAM.—We are informed that the vicar of Bedale, as chairman of the local Sanhedrim there, has refused to put a motion, which, if carried, would have committed them to the dangerous experiment of allowing a Baptist congregation to worship God in the Town Hall during the time that their own place of meeting was undergoing alterations and repairs. As the building is granted for almost any other purpose, our informant may well exclaim, *O tempora! o mores!* Surely they want a little light and ventilation at their town's meeting at Bedale!—*Northern Echo*.

A BAPTIST CHAPEL CASE has been under argument in Vice-Chancellor James's Court. The trustees and deacons of the Particular Baptist chapel at Barnoldswick, York, filed a bill to restrain the Rev. Mr. Bennett from continuing to act as minister of the chapel. It transpired that his stipend was 40*l*. a year, and that in 1867 he became bankrupt. Some of the congregation were dissatisfied, and called on him to resign, which he declined to do. Various circumstances thereupon arose. The Vice-Chancellor was of opinion that the bill must be dismissed with costs.

CHURCH AND STATE IN BADEN.—The Ministry of the Grand Duchy of Baden have submitted to the Chambers a measure for the virtual separation of Church and State. Hitherto much money for the maintenance and relief of the sick and for the education of youth has been at the disposal of the clergy. The Government are resolved that this shall no longer be the case. Their proposal for the exact definition and separation of ecclesiastical and secular functions and institutions has been vehemently opposed both by the Roman Catholic priesthood and the Evangelical consistories, but the project has been accepted by the Lower Chamber by a very large majority.

THE IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH is most successfully raising the sustentation fund in lieu of the *Regium Donum*. The General Assembly's Sustentation Fund Committee met in Belfast on Monday, when the Rev. R. J. McAllister, convener of the fund, reported that 318 congregations had subscribed 14,575*l*., and that 2,070*l*. had been given as donations. One hundred thousand copies of the sustentation scheme, accompanied by a letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly, have been circulated throughout the Church. The scheme is working admirably, and there is little doubt that by the meeting of the Assembly in June the necessary sum will be realised.

DEAN STANLEY AND THE REV. S. MARTIN.—A correspondent of the *Christian World* writes to that journal—"The statement made in your paper respecting the Rev. Samuel Martin communicating with the Dean in the hospital at Westminster has, no doubt, pleased many thousands of your readers. Will you allow me to say that if the worthy Dean will now go to the chapel of Mr. Martin and commune with him on the next Sacrament Sunday, by way of returning the kindness, we have no doubt

that his liberal conduct will please many thousands all over the country. It is quite time that Churchmen and Dissenters were one in every good word and work."

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND.—The report just issued by the managers of the Bishop of London's Fund enables one to judge of the probable success of the measure set on foot by Archbishop Tait in 1864. Half of its appointed term of existence has now expired, but the million of money which was desired and expected is still very far from having been obtained. The actual amount already received has been 325,000*l*., and if the hands of the managers have been somewhat tied by a seemingly inadequate response to their appeal, the result has been so far beneficial that it has compelled a less expenditure upon such material objects as churches and parsonages. The committee are, indeed, convinced that the mission system, besides being more economical than any other, is best calculated to reach the people, and that it really has developed among the working classes at the East-end a more friendly tone towards the Church.—*Full Mail Gazette*.

THE SCOTCH ECCLESIASTICAL BILLS.—The friends of the Scottish Establishment are up in arms against the bills brought into Parliament by Mr. McLaren, one of the members for Edinburgh, for effecting a change in the mode of supporting the clergy in that city, and for abolishing compulsory Church-rates. The former tax was put on a new footing about ten years ago, in the hope that in its reduction all opposition to it would be removed; but the Dissenters have never given up their hostility, and they appear to be as determined as ever to fight out the battle to the last. The Town Council have appointed a deputation to support the bill, exerting themselves at the same time to make its provisions in one or two respects less favourable to the Establishment. The other bill is one which has only been heard of within the last year or two; and what may be said to have given birth to it was an injudicious attempt by several of the Glasgow Established Churchmen to impose a tax for ecclesiastical purposes on the proprietors of one of the new parishes in that city.

SEIZURE FOR VICAR'S DUES AT HALIFAX.—"An Old Bradfordian" writes to the *Bradford Observer* that last week the police and vicar's rate-collector entered forcibly into one house at least in Halifax, and took from it goods to the amount of what they considered would pay thirteen shillings and three-halfpence, the amount demanded for one year, and also to cover the expense of auction sale besides. "I have seen," he says, "a widow woman, who had a family of small children, pleading before the magistrates to be let off her amount of vicar's rate, when she was abruptly told that she knew the amount was to pay, and she must pay it, so she was to stand down, as they would not hear a word she had to say. In my own case, I told the magistrates that I was a stranger in the neighbourhood, and had never before been called upon for such a rate; that as the collector of the vicar's rate could or would not answer the questions put to him why I was called upon for such a rate, I wished them to do so; that I had never seen the vicar, or entered one of his churches; that, as a business man, I wanted an equivalent for the money paid to him. To this they said it was contempt of court to mention such a thing, and they would issue a committal to Wakefield if another word was said. I am, therefore, still at a loss, the why and the wherefore—why my home has not been my castle this week in this free England of ours? I offered to double the amount demanded if they would only make the rate voluntary, or to give a donation to make up any loss such voluntary effort required."

PROPOSED "FREE IRISH CATHOLIC CHURCH."—A curious letter, indicative possibly of a divisive movement among the Irish Romanists, is addressed to the *Dublin Evening Mail*. The writer, who does not give his name, asks if there be no Irish Catholic, or Catholics, courageous and influential enough to take the first steps towards starting a Free Irish Catholic Church? "As an Irish Catholic, I am sick of and disgusted with the pretensions of the Italian ecclesiastics and their mouthpieces in Ireland to dictate to me in electoral, political, educational, and even social matters, and I, for one, do repudiate such dictation, be the consequences what they may. As one instance of the claims set up by Rome, I refer to the prohibition (now, it appears, fully confirmed) of Irish Catholics uniting in the wide political movement known as Fenianism. I am not, technically, a Fenian, but I none the less strongly object to any priest or bishop, Roman or Irish, interfering with the political leaning or actions of Irishmen, Protestant or Catholic. That interference has been going on for ages, and my reading of Irish history makes me familiar with priestly exhortations, and the texts of more than one Papal Bull blessing and encouraging the Fenians of former times (in the Desmond Rebellion, in Hugh O'Neill's Rebellion, in 1641, in 1798, &c., &c.), when the fight was for Rome or Spain, and the interests of the Church generally. It appears that Rome has now nothing to gain by Irish rebellion against England, so the blessings are turned into curses, and the bulls into edicts of excommunication. Let us shake off this intolerable and outrageous yoke of Rome, and be fools no longer. If it is an imperative condition of our being Roman Catholics, that we must be the tools and puppets of Rome, and un- Irish in every sentiment and aspiration, let us boldly repudiate the 'Roman,' and become 'Irish' Catholics. I do hope that the Catholic Nationalists of Ireland will give this suggestion a fair and deliberate consideration, for if they do I am sure they will see that they have no honourable alternative to its acceptance. I am not rich, but I would willingly subscribe a few pounds towards the preliminary expenses of such an organisation."

Religious and Denominational News.

The erection of a new chapel in connection with the Metropolitan Tabernacle, near the residence of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, at Clapham, is contemplated.

HACKNEY COLLEGE.—On Friday, the 18th inst., the Rev. Thomas Binney paid a visit to Hackney College, conversing freely with the students upon matters of general interest connected with their work; but chiefly upon the aims and the results actually achieved by our Nonconformist colleges.

POPULAR LECTURES ON CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES.—Shoreditch Town-hall has been taken by the Bible Defence Association for Sunday-evening lectures upon the evidences of Christianity. The first and second lectures will be delivered on March 6th and 13th by Mr. B. H. Cowper, the subjects being, "Why am I a Christian?" and "How we know the Bible true." The lectures will commence at seven o'clock, and admission will be free. A chairman will preside, but discussion will not be allowed.

ISLEWORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—Last Thursday evening a *soirée* and public meeting were held to welcome the Rev. John Pate (of Glasgow University, and New College, London) on entering upon his duties as pastor of the church. After tea, in the schoolroom, a public meeting was held in the church, which was largely attended. The pastor occupied the chair, and delivered a very able and interesting address. Professor Barrett (of the International College) alluded to the low state of the congregation previous to Mr. Pate's acceptance, and to the remarkable improvement which had resulted from his ministrations; and in giving him a welcome as his pastor, he expressed the feeling entertained by all that with the Divine blessing the future could not fail to bring increased prosperity. Appropriate addresses were also delivered by the Revs. G. H. Jackson, Twickenham; J. Vine, Brentford; G. Blinkhorn, Kingston; and Mr. G. S. Ordish, New College.

OPEN-AIR MISSION.—The monthly conference of the Open-air Mission was held on Monday evening in the Hall, Red Lion-square, Holborn. There was a full attendance of the members and friends. The subject for conversation was "Personal Recollections of Open-air Preaching," which was ably opened by the Rev. Charles Gilbert, of Holloway. Mr. Gilbert commenced open-air preaching more than forty years ago under the auspices of the Christian Instruction Society. At that time this mode of evangelising was by no means popular, and almost the only person who practised it systematically was the sincere but eccentric "Boatawain" Smith. The Rev. G. W. McCree, minister of the Mission Church, St. Giles's, who occupied the chair, also related incidents in his experience, first in Newcastle-on-Tyne and then in London. After the conference about a dozen preachers, led by the secretary, went into some of the neighbouring streets to hold short meetings. The people were attracted by the lively singing, and listened attentively to the brief exhortations, although the wind blew very keenly all the time.

MISSIONARY REUNION.—An interesting meeting was held on Friday evening at Princes-street Chapel, Gravesend. The lecture-room had been transformed into a pleasant drawing-room; there the pastor and members of the congregation received some young missionaries and missionary students, who are about to depart to Madagascar, Africa, and other fields of mission labour. There were also present, by invitation, the Rev. J. S. Wardlaw, M.A., the president of the Missionary Training College, Highgate, and the Rev. William Muirhead, the distinguished Chinese missionary, who is on the eve of returning to the East, their wives accompanying them. A large and most respectable company assembled soon after six o'clock, comprising some of the borough magistrates, and seatholders of Princes-street Chapel; also members of the Young Men's Missionary Auxiliary. The Mayor sent an expression of regret for his unavoidable absence. The evening was most pleasantly spent in brief addresses, with hymns and chants. The evening, which was one of unusual interest, closed with prayer for the departing missionaries.

AMBLE.—On Thursday, the 17th of February, Mr. William Anderson Kyd, M.A., lately a student in the Edinburgh Theological Hall, was recognised as the pastor of the Congregational Church, Amble, Northumberland. The Rev. J. T. Shawcross, of Alnwick, presided on the occasion. After singing and prayer, the Rev. G. Stewart, of Newcastle, gave an introductory sermon on the nature of a Christian Church, from Ephesians vi. 32. The Rev. H. T. Robjohns, B.A., asked the usual questions, which were answered in a very satisfactory manner by the pastor-elect. The Rev. A. Scott, of Rothbury, then offered up the recognition prayer, after which an earnest and impressive address to the new pastor was given by the Rev. Archibald Jack, of North Shields, who has now attained the venerable age of eighty-one years. He founded his exhortation on these words in Revelation ii. 10, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." A letter from Dr. Gowan, of the Edinburgh Theological Hall, was read, referring in terms of praise to Mr. Kyd's disposition and character as an individual and a student. A full meeting of the church and congregation was held in the evening, when the Rev. Wm. Ayre, of Morpeth, gave an admirable sermon to the people, founding his exhortations on these words in Luke viii. 18, "Take heed how ye hear." On Lord's Day, February 20th, the Rev. James M. Robbie, of Dunfermline, editor of the *Scottish Congregational Magazine*, introduced the new pastor, preaching

morning and evening. In the afternoon Mr. Kyd, pastor of the church, preached from James i. 25.

SHEFFIELD.—A united congregational tea-meeting was held on Monday evening week at the Cutlers' Hall. About 600 sat down to tea. Over the crowded meeting afterwards held Mr. R. Leader presided, and in opening the meeting referred to the subject of national education, heartily congratulating the meeting on the character of Mr. Forster's bill, and the able support Sheffield had given to it in the person of Mr. Mundella. But that bill put upon them new duties. The Town Council was to elect the school board. On that board would devolve important taxing power, and a large discretion in supporting existing schools or setting up new ones. With it would rest the great question of compulsion, and it would largely influence the decision whether secular education was to mean anti-religious or only unsectarian. He therefore urged upon all Christian men, not Congregationalists only, but of all denominations, the duty of laying aside their reluctance to take part in the work of local self-government. In conclusion, he called upon Mr. C. J. Innocent to read a report "On the numerical and financial position of the Congregational Churches of Sheffield." The Rev. J. Calvert then spoke upon the subject, "How to promote the spiritual life of our churches." Mr. Alfred Allott was next asked to address the meeting upon the subject of "Christian finance." The Rev. D. Loxton followed with a humorous address upon the "Influence of fashion on religious profession." Mr. J. Askham spoke on "Congregationalism in relation to education." The Rev. A. F. Joscelyne, B.A., gave "Reasons for our Nonconformity"; and Mr. J. W. Pye-Smith delivered an address on the "Catholicity of Nonconformity." After a few remarks from the chairman, the Rev. A. J. Bedells moved the following resolution:—"That it is desirable in the view of this meeting that such a united meeting of the churches in this town as are present should be repeated next year about this time." (Cheers.) Mr. Langley seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

THE REV. THOMAS JONES.—The church and congregation at Bedford Chapel, Camden-town, entertained their late pastor, the Rev. T. Jones, at a *soirée* on Tuesday evening week. The chapel was crowded. Mr. Powell took the chair; on one side of him were Professor Godwin, of New College, and Dr. Unwin, of Homerton; on the other were Dr. Hoppus, formerly Professor of Logic and Mental Philosophy at University College, London; Mr. Thomas Walker, till lately editor of the *Daily News*; and Mr. Winterbotham, M.P. for Stroud. After a hymn had been sung, and Dr. Unwin had engaged in prayer, Professor Godwin, on behalf of the people, said they were all of one mind as regards their esteem and respect for Mr. Jones. It was idle to regret the inevitable. They were to be deprived of his services, and the only thing they could do was to make the best of it and to show their admiration of his unblemished reputation. More especially on behalf of all present, the Professor declared their gratitude for the services rendered by him in the awakening and sustaining of their spiritual life. He had also to assure Mr. Jones of their good wishes sincerely and earnestly, when he should not be with them, and their desire too that he should have a memorial of that feeling in a permanent form. Mr. Winterbotham, M.P., followed with some valuable remarks. He was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Walker, who expressed his thankfulness that God had raised up such a preacher in this great centre to tell of spiritual realities. Mr. Powell read to Mr. Jones an address from his people embodying the feeling which had been more or less proclaimed by the preceding speakers. A curtain before a recess was then withdrawn, and there was revealed a beautiful marble bust of Mr. Jones, worth 150*l.*, the work of Mr. Franklin, which, set off by its background of green baize, and illuminated from above, seemed to glow with life, and to give to all present the utmost satisfaction. This was the present to be given that night. Mr. Jones had already received a cheque for 200*l.* After a few verses had been sung, he rose to reply with great feeling. The doxology was then sung, and Mr. Jones closed with a brief and earnest prayer.

BETHNAL GREEN RAGGED SCHOOL AND GOSPEL MISSION.—On Wednesday evening, the 23rd February, the second anniversary of this institution was held in the New School and Mission Room, presided over by the Earl of Shaftesbury. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Orsman, of Golden-lane; Mr. Gent, of the Ragged School Union; Revs. W. Tyler and J. Ellis, and other friends. The Earl expressed his warmest sympathy with the work, with the earnest hope that Gospel halls might be multiplied all over the country. During the past year a commodious new schoolroom has been erected, in which the various operations of the Mission are carried on at a cost of nearly 400*l.*, of which sum 150*l.* is still due to the timber-merchant, and 100*l.* more is needed to provide comfortable seats, and furnish seven additional rooms, as a home for training poor girls for service, which will be commenced as soon as the funds are in hand. It is purposed also to effect the purchase of the copyhold of the premises, which is offered for 1,200*l.* Mr. Charles Reed, M.P.; Mr. Jonathan Grubb, of Sudbury, and Mr. J. McCall, of Houndsditch, have kindly promised to act as trustees for the completion of the purchase. The past year's contributions amount to 453*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* The operations of the Mission are as follows:—280 children receiving instruction in the free day school, evening school conducted twice in the week; a prosperous Band of Hope, with nearly ninety members; boys' drum and fife band in training, as an auxiliary to the temperance cause; a mother's meeting, Bible-

class, prayer-meetings, and children's services are held with encouraging attendance—every evening in the week being occupied; and evangelistic services held on Wednesday and Lord's-day evenings, at which many precious souls have been savingly converted. The neighbourhood is one of the very darkest and heathenish in the East of London, and needs the prayers and practical sympathy of the Christian public. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Jarvis, will thankfully receive subscriptions and supply collecting boxes to friends who are willing to gather small weekly contributions, which would be a most valuable help, and will also thankfully hear from members of the various evangelical churches in the neighbourhood, who are at present doing nothing actively in God's work, and are desirous to devote their spare time and energies in spreading the Gospel among the perishing multitudes around.

GLASGOW.—The annual social meeting in connection with Elgin-place Congregational Church, Glasgow, was held on the 15th instant, in the Organ Hall of the Queen's Rooms. The chair was occupied by the Rev. H. Batchelor, pastor of the congregation, who, reviewing the progress of the church and its agencies during the year, said that the gains and losses had been unaccountably below the average during the year. In eleven years 623 new members had been added to the church, and during the same interval death had removed no less than 123 communicants. With regard to their church institutions, the chairman said their home mission station in Bishop-street, Anderston, was enjoying a gratifying amount of prosperity. Their able and respectable missionary, the Rev. James McLean, had been very much blessed in his work. The Dovehill day-schools had undergone great changes in the year. The Memorial Building, they were aware, had been sold to a railway company. The schools were conducted at present in Blackfriars-street, and were in a state of great efficiency. The Cowcaddens Female Mission had been conducted during the year with zeal and success. He believed the mission was doing great good. The Female Benevolent Society, for supplying poor and deserving people with articles of food, had on its list at present forty-nine persons; and the Dorcas Society had been discharging its duties in the ordinary manner. The Sabbath-school Society exhibited unusual fluctuation. They had at present ninety-seven teachers and 1,254 scholars. On the whole, however, they had no reason to be discouraged in their work. They had much to be thankful for, and much that should stimulate them in every Christian enterprise. He thought the congregation owed a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Bell for his gratuitous services in connection with the medical mission at the station in Bishop-street. During the year 500 cases, embracing 800 consultations, had been under his notice, besides which he had visited many patients at their homes. The chairman, in conclusion, intimated that the total income during the year amounted to 2,440*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, and that the treasurer reported a balance in their favour of 131*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* The whole sum raised by the church during the eleven years of his connection with it amounted to 31,447*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* These figures were in themselves an adequate vindication of voluntarism. The Rev. Mr. McLean afterwards addressed the meeting, describing in the form of an interesting narrative his labours in connection with the Bishop-street Mission. Several other ministers addressed the meeting in the course of the evening.

Correspondence.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Many of your readers probably awaited your last issue with some anxiety, and were glad to read your opinion of Mr. Forster's bill. Leaving the new religious establishment it proposes, and some other objectionable points, to your tender mercies, allow me to ask attention to its compulsory principle. We need to say that an Englishman's house was his castle, and that no officer of the Government had the right to enter it till some *prima facie* evidence of guilt in the occupier had been given. So, at least, ought it to be in the matter of education. If we are to have compulsion, the Englishman should not be required to prove himself innocent of neglecting his children, but the Government should prove him guilty of neglecting them before it interferes. The parents are the divinely-appointed guardians of their children, and the proper judges of the time when their schooling shall commence, and the manner in which it shall be conducted. To put the objection in the plainest form, let me say that the education of my children is one of my most sacred rights and duties, and that to take the control from me and hand it over to a board appointed by the Town Council, would be an outrage on one of the tenderest of all relations, and an act of tyranny unexampled in England for the last 180 years. Our personal and domestic liberties are more precious, if not more important, than our public liberties. What can have befallen a Liberal Cabinet, that they can have even dreamed of thrusting in Governmental officials between all the parents in the land and their children? The only answer to this objection I have heard is, that there will be practically no interference at all with parents who are understood to be discharging their duty. Why, then, institute machinery which is not to be worked? The best thing the Ministers can do is to take back this

bill for violating all virtuous households, and construct another for those parents only who are proved to require it.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Cambridge, February 28.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Mr. Forster in his Education Bill proposes that school boards shall be elected by town councils, select vestries, and vestries. This is in recognition of the principle of local governments managing local affairs. I am in doubt how he will secure this end by means of the select vestries, at least if all select vestries are like that we have. What is a select vestry? Are they constituted in the same way all over the country? The select vestry in this place consists of about twenty Churchmen, who are the trustees of certain church or parish property, and who have power to fill up any vacancy that may occur in their number. As far as the parish is concerned, they are a self-elected, irresponsible body. The township or town contains a population of from 12,000 to 15,000, mainly engaged in cotton manufactures and mining, and is governed by a local board of eighteen members, of whom one-third are elected annually by the ratepayers. In such a case as ours, then, Mr. Forster passes by the representative responsible government of the district, and hands over the power of primarily directing what shall be the character of the education of the district to a self-elected, irresponsible body of men. What I should be glad to know is, are there many select vestries of this order? and does Mr. Forster seriously intend to hand over to them the election of the school boards? It is a further accident of the select vestry here that all its members are not only Churchmen but Tories, and an accident of the religious position of the district, that Dissenters are as two to one Churchmen, while perhaps from one-third to one-half the population have nothing to do with any denomination. It is quite evident, therefore, that the views and opinions of the select vestry as to the constitution of the school board, would not harmonise with those of the majority of the population. On the other hand, our local board equally represents both political parties, and nearly all the religious denominations among us, and as at present constituted, well represents all interests, and all shades of opinion in the town.

As the bill stands, how would it work in such a district as this, which may be taken as a type of scores in the manufacturing districts? As to the quantity of school provision we should not perhaps come so short of the standard proposed as many other places, yet we should be deficient. What school accommodation and means of education there now is has been provided by the churches in something like these rough proportions—Churchmen for 850 scholars, Wesleyans for 500, Catholics for 250, all, I believe, with Government aid; Congregationalists for 750 without such aid. The bill leaves it to these churches to say whether or no they can or will do any more in the direction of primary education. They are already too heavily burdened to fulfil their responsibilities as religious communities. Yet it is likely that in the year's grace given them by the bill they would try and supplement what they have already done. If all combined together the deficiency might be met; we should be saved from the select vestry, the school board, and all that follows in the train of these; those who desire it would retain the management of their schools in their own hands; and, splendid conclusion of it all, these churches having burdened themselves with a large immediate outlay, and a heavy additional annual charge, would then, as now, see their schools only partially filled, and the streets still swarming with idle and ignorant children who cannot be compelled to attend the schools provided for them. Why should the churches be called upon to do this? But it is conceivable that during the year's grace another cause of action might be taken. The Wesleyans and Catholics, to keep their schools in their own hands would add to their present provision; the Congregationalists, under the influence of those wider views which now begin to be recognised by them, might say, "We will do nothing more in the way of denominational education"; and the Churchmen, feeling secure of their position in the select vestry, might also decline to make any special further provision. At the end of the year the bill would call upon the select vestry to elect a school board, and it is easy to conceive what would be the issue of an election by twenty irresponsible self-elected Tory Churchmen. But too certainly the school board would reflect the opinions and wishes of the vestry. Thus constituted, it would have to decide how the additional needed provision should be made. If by grants in equal proportions to all denominations, the Catholics and Wesleyans would receive a grant they did not need, but would lose a power they had been at great expense and sacrifice to retain. Or, as is more likely, the School Board would hand over a new school to the Episcopalians. The knot of the religious difficulty would be cut, but in a way which would only tend to disturb the peace and harmony of the town. The only reasonable way of solving that difficulty could not possibly be expected from a body which owed its origin to a select vestry of Tory Churchmen.

Testing the provisions of the bill by the actual circumstances of a populous township in Lancashire, it

seems that it needs amendment in these particulars—the substitution of Local Boards or some other popularly elected body for select vestries; and further provisions of educational appliances to devolve upon the community at large, and not upon the churches; such additional provision where possible to be a school or schools, where there is a distinct separation of the secular and religious departments of education; attendance at school to be made absolutely compulsory by Act of Parliament, and school fees to be retained in all cases where they are now paid.

WILLIAM HEWGILL.

THE NEW BURIAL BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In a recent number of your paper you gave in *extenso* the various clauses of the above bill. It appears to me that the clause which throws the expenses upon the poor-rate is one which will be pernicious in its operation, and which will eventually introduce to us once more our old friend (or enemy), the Church-rate question. If the object of the bill be to convert the churchyard into a public cemetery, it certainly would be an equitable method of procedure that the necessary expenses should come out of the public moneys; if, however, as there would be reason to fear, the churchyards still remain an appanage of the Church, why should Dissenters, who prefer to bury their dead in their own chapel yards, be forced to pay for the interment of others? In all probability the office of church-keeper would be united to that of grave-digger, and, as it would be difficult sometimes to define the precise time given to each separate task, it is just within the range of possibility that the ratepayers might be compelled to pay the church-keeper through the grave-digger.

It is also proposed to pay the fees to the incumbent although a Dissenter may officiate. Is not this, Sir, a mistake? If a Dissenter is capable of reading the burial service over a corpse, it is, I submit, an insult to him, as well as to the friends of the deceased, that the fees should be handed over to an incumbent who may be miles away. Is not this bowing down to the superiority of ecclesiastical priestism? Somewhat harsh and oppressive would be the regulation that forty-eight hours must elapse after notice has been given, before burial can take place. Why so long a time? It will scarcely be possible to send a messenger to the clergyman immediately after death has taken place, and there will probably be times when the detention of a corpse for the necessary length of time would become fatal to the health of the residents of the house in which it lies. These, Sir, are blots in the bill, and in the eyes of some of us who live in the country grave defects.

I do not know, but think that rather than have a measure so dwarfed and deformed, it will be wiser for us to wait for a fuller and stronger bill.

I may be wrong in my surmisings, but I confess that we who live in these country parishes are rather sensitive about these burial questions; but, if any of your readers can convince us that these forebodings are more chimerical than real, we shall be grateful.

Yours respectfully,
RUSTICUS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—A copy of the Burials Bill, the second reading of which is fixed for the 23rd of March, is now in circulation, together with a request that Nonconformists will petition Parliament to pass it. A thousand times better have no bill at all on the subject than sanction this. It calls for our entire and unqualified condemnation.

1. Can any measure be conceived more calculated to expose the friends of deceased persons to numerous and painful annoyances, than the forty-eight hours' notice of interment that must be given before a funeral can take place? Even when the incumbent, or his representative, is most ready to consult the feelings of all the parishioners, there will often be much inconvenience. But when he is of the class to which Dissent is more hateful than sin, what then?

2. Will not many a Nonconformist justly hesitate, and even refuse, to make application to the incumbent, on the ground that by such application, under the provisions of this bill, he recognises the ecclesiastical status and superiority of the State-appointed minister of religion?

3. Are Nonconformists prepared to pay a State Church minister fees for services done by one of their own ministers? Will there not be resistance of payment, inasmuch as legal compulsion in such cases will be more offensive to their feelings than they were in the age of Church-rates themselves?

4. Will not this feature of the bill place every Nonconformist minister who conducts such funeral service in the light of a lacquey or *employé* to the so-called parish minister, whose work he does, and whose pay he secures? Will not many State parsons chuckle in their sleeves to see Dissenting pastors in this humiliating position—if, indeed, any Dissenting pastors can be found thus to make sport for the Philistines?

5. The clause which enables churchwardens out of the poor-rates to keep churchyards in repair will be a very El Dorado for zealous Churchmen, ready enough to adorn, at the expense of the public, the grounds surrounding their own places of worship.

It seems as if no act of common justice, or of common humanity, can be done in this country by the Legislature unless first there be thrown a golden sop to the fierce and voracious Cerberus of State-Churchism. Let us wait for legislative measures until the Legislature is prepared to do us full justice, without one ingredient of either wrong or insult. Till then, let us "rest," though not "thankful."

The local committee of the Liberation Society in Derby met on Friday evening last, and unanimously, uncompromisingly, and contemptuously ignored the bill *in toto*; and so far from petitioning Parliament to pass it into law, they will urge the local representatives to give it their most decided opposition.

I am, yours truly,
W. GRIFFITH.

Derby, Feb. 26, 1870.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Your last number contained an objection to one of the clauses of the Burials Bill, and you will possibly receive other communications on the subject, as I have done.

By the time your next number is issued the opinions of Episcopalian, as well as Nonconformist, critics may be known, and I shall then be glad to be allowed the opportunity of reviewing in your columns what has been said on both sides.

Meanwhile, let me suggest to those whose dislike to the bill is limited to one or two clauses that they ought not, on that account, to decline to exert themselves to get the bill read a second time, since it is in Committee alone that its several provisions can be dealt with.

Your obedient servant,
J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.
Serjeant's-inn, March 1.

BIBLICAL REVISION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—No doubt the question of Biblical Revision deserves the attention which it is now receiving; and, as long as nothing more than a revision is proposed, there can be but few objectors to the movement. The objections, also, of these few amount in substance not so much to a condemnation of all revision in the abstract, as a doubt whether the time for such an attempt has yet arrived. A general objection of this nature to a new Authorised Version has been well stated by Trench, who says that "we are not as yet in any respect prepared for it. The Greek and the English which should enable us to bring this to a successful end might, it is to be feared, be wanting alike."

But now, as regards "the Greek," the above statement is quite open to question; and, indeed, since it was written, considerable advances have been made in sacred philology; and, as to "the English," the difficulty surely may be obviated, since it is proposed to make the pure Saxon of the old translation the foundation and framework of any new attempt. Other objectors, however, think that in the present divisions of the "religious world," and the generally unsettled state of religious thought, they see a barrier to the execution of the proposed enterprise. But this can be no more than a conjecture. And may we ask, too, whether the necessary comparison of differences and investigation of disputed points might not result in promoting that unity, the absence of which is so much deplored? The livelier discussion would produce a deeper interest in the truth. Certainly, it were better for two Christians to contend somewhat warmly over a vital passage of Scripture, than for both to be ignorant or careless as to its existence.

During the process of effecting such a revision of the English Bible, the national mind probably would be awakened to take a new and more intelligent interest in the Scriptures. Beside the main result, many indirect benefits would thus attend the effort. Indeed, it would be "twice blessed," blessing both the generation that gave, and the after generations that should receive the sacred boon. This undertaking would, in its pursuance, quicken the thought and piety of the present day, and, in its completion, transmit brightly into the distant future the rays of sacred truth.

F. MANN.

Plymouth.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—It is satisfactory to find that the objections taken by the Earl of Shaftesbury, as the President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to a proposed revision of the English translation of the Sacred Scriptures, have not met with the sanction of the Committee of the Society. Indeed, it was not to have been expected that they would, for the objections of his lordship may be described as *sentimental*, whilst the views of the committee would be broadly *utilitarian*. His lordship may, however, be pardoned, as a member of the Anglican Church, with whom we often see that respect runs into veneration, and veneration into superstition. A clergyman said last Sunday to a large, we will not say to an intelligent congregation, when speaking of the proposed alterations in the Lectionary of the Book of Common Prayer, that it was undesirable to change what had been approved of for three centuries. There is such a thing as a worshipping of the Prayer-

book, and it is to be feared, also of a translation of the Bible.

Some may object to the proposed revision, on the ground that it would amount to but little, whilst some, on the other hand, may say it would amount to much. But, take the proposal either way, what is the question which ought to suggest itself? Is it not, whether it is desirable that English readers of God's Book of Laws should have them laid before them in the most correct translation which is obtainable? Can any sensible Protestant doubt as to the answer to be given? I can understand how a Roman Catholic can object to the reading of the Bible in the vulgar tongue, without the comments of ecclesiastics. And there has been a time in England—when the British and Foreign Bible Society was started—that the dignitaries of the Anglican Church declined to join it, not certainly on Protestant grounds. I can also understand why the Roman Catholic Church adheres to its Latin Vulgate—it favours Romanism; and it is clear that on an honest revision of the English version, many renderings would have to be corrected which have an Anglican twist. It has been indeed said by a bishop in Convocation that some Calvinistic Nonconformists might dislike a revision which might obliterate some texts which were considered to be favourites in their eyes. Granted: but are not the Articles of the Anglican Church Calvinistic, and are not many of its clergy Calvinistic? The subject of a revision of the English version of God's Holy Word has been long discussed. Nonconformists are now sufficiently numerous to make a revision for themselves. They need no "authority" from the Crown, or from Anglican assemblies. It would be somewhat of a disgrace upon those who have done so much in translating the Bible into foreign languages, if they should not bestir themselves to procure as perfect a translation of it as is possible for the benefit of English readers.

AN INDEPENDENT.

London, Feb. 28, 1870.

THE BISHOP OF RIPON AND NONCONFORMISTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In the Leeds Mercury of the 26th February, we read that the day before (the 25th) the church of St. James's, Brighouse, was consecrated by the Bishop of Ripon. At the luncheon, which took place afterwards, the toast of the "Bishop and Clergy" was responded to by Bishop Bickersteth, thanking the Nonconformists for the money assistance which they had given in aid of the work. So far well; but, said he, "At the same time, he would add the expression of his belief that the Nonconformists only showed good policy in thus manifesting a kindly feeling towards the Church of England; for he believed that, under the shadow of the Established Church in this country, their Nonconformist brethren enjoyed a degree of civil and religious liberty, which in all probability they would lack were it not for the Church of England being an Established Church."

Now, Nonconformists will, I think, agree with me that they will at least feel more religious liberty when the disestablishment of the English Church takes place, which assuredly it must do, sooner or later.

I leave the other points in the quotation to the tender mercies of your readers, and am,

Dear Sir, yours truly,

A BAPTIST.

Leeds, February 26, 1870.

"LICENSING SIN."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Under the above heading a letter appeared some little time ago in your columns, but, though it referred to a most important and urgent matter, it has elicited no further correspondence; and as much ignorance prevails on the painful subject, and the need for action is imperative, I venture to call the attention of your readers to the two scandalous "Contagious Diseases Acts," which are already in hideous operation in some districts of England, and to their proposed extension to the whole country.

Nothing but the great urgency of the occasion could induce me to write on such a subject; but since men are silent women must speak out, and utter their indignant protest against the foul legislation which—and let Christian men and women mark this—not with the hope of checking vice, but simply to render its indulgence safer, has already not only inflicted on thousands of our fallen sisters a cruel outrage and crowning degradation, but, in order to do this, has deprived all the women in certain districts of their most sacred personal rights, and placed them under the power of the police. An attempt is to be made during the present session of Parliament to extend this legislation to the whole country! The thing is so monstrous that it appears incredible to those who have not investigated the matter, and surely nothing but this incredulity, and the ignorance which prevails on the subject, can account for the apathy and silence which, unfortunately, still prevail in many quarters.

Is it, however, too much to expect that Christian men and women, who believe that "sin is a reproach to any people," will, when they learn the sad necessity, brave the pain of the needful inquiry? and that while our statesmen rightly give anxious thought to the Irish

land question, the women of our country will be deemed of, at least, equal importance? If there is not Christianity and chivalry enough in the manhood of England to rescue its womanhood from outrage and flagrant injustice, surely Ichabod is already written on our country's greatness; unless, indeed, God shall bless the heavy sacrifice of personal feeling which Englishwomen are making in this matter, and enable them not only to save their fallen sisters from further degradation, but to rescue Englishmen also from the effects of the increased immorality which must eventually be the inevitable consequence of a legislation that regulates, and thereby virtually legalises, the practice of vice. If Barak will not enter on this conflict alone, thank God our country has Deborahs who will accompany him, and it may be the Lord will again "sell Sisera into the hand of a woman."

I am, yours very respectfully,

AN ENGLISHWOMAN AND OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Ladies who desire further information should write to the Secretary of the Ladies' National Association for the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts, Mrs. George Butler, 28, South-hill, Park-road, Liverpool.

The Secretary of the National Anti-Contagious Diseases Act Extension Association is Mr. Frederick Banks, of Mansfield-road, Nottingham, from whom information, supplies of pamphlets, etc., may be obtained.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday Lord LYTTLETON pointed out that the Workshops Act had remained almost everywhere a dead letter on account of its enforcement having been confided to local authorities. Lord MORLEY, in reply, admitted the failure of the Act, and the necessity of its amendment, but pleaded the pressure of other important questions as a reason for deferring legislation till next session.

The Judges' Jurisdiction Bill was read a second time, and their Lordships adjourned at thirty-five minutes past five o'clock.

On Friday the House sat but twenty minutes, the only business of any interest being the introduction by the LORD CHANCELLOR of the Naturalisation Bill, the discussion of which was deferred till the next stage.

On Monday their Lordships met at five o'clock, when the Duke of Richmond, for the first time, took the seat usually occupied by the leader of the Opposition.

LORD COLVILLE, on behalf of the Marquis of Bath, postponed the motion for the production of the correspondence between Mr. Madden and the Irish Government to some future day.

The House went into committee on the Sunday Trading Bill. Several verbal amendments were made, and the bill passed through committee.

The Judges' Jurisdiction Bill passed through committee with eight amendments.

LORD LANSDOWNE, in reply to Lord Clanricarde, stated that the Government intended to promote the improvement of the river Shannon below Athlone by a loan and grant of public money.

Their Lordships adjourned at twenty minutes before six.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES BILL.

On Wednesday Mr. CAVE moved the second reading of his Life Assurance Companies Bill, which, with certain amendments, is identical with that brought in by him last year, the progress of which was interrupted by his illness. He prefaced his exposition of its provisions by an interesting review of the principles and theory of life assurance, and of the causes which have led to recent failures in what, he showed, ought to be of all enterprises the most free from risks. The evils of amalgamation he illustrated by the career of the Albert Company, of which he gave a full narrative, and he condemned in strong and earnest language the proceedings which have brought so much loss to thrifty and self-denying classes. The bill requires, under penalties, the periodical transmission to the Board of Trade by all assurance companies of full accounts of their operations and position, in a form prescribed by the schedules of the bill, and also that in all cases of amalgamation a full statement of the conditions and actuarial reports relating to the position of both societies shall be laid before the shareholders and policy-holders, and that the consent of half the policy-holders shall be obtained before their interests are transferred to another office. It also provides that every company hereafter established shall deposit with the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery a sum of 20,000*l.*, which shall not be returned until the assurance fund accumulated out of the premiums shall amount to 40,000*l.* It further provides that in winding-up cases the Court, in determining the insolvency of a company, shall take into account its prospective liability under all existing contracts.

Mr. SHAW-LEFEBRE, on the part of the Government, gave a cordial assent to the second reading of the bill, to the preparation of which he had contributed several clauses, chiefly relating to the legal portion of the measure.

The discussion which followed was in a tone of general approval, and consisted mainly of suggestions for the improvement of the bill.

Some hon. gentlemen expressed regret that it had

not gone further—had not, for instance, required an independent audit of the accounts of insurance companies, or made some provision as to the surrender value of policies.

Mr. LOWE severely criticised the deficiencies of the measure, pointing out that it did not attempt to deal with the investment of funds, upon which the security of all insurance companies depended, or to suppress the system of "puffing, touting, and bribing," with which the business of insurance appears now to be, if not naturally, at all events inseparably associated; and describing the provisions of the bill as in the main a faint and shadowy imitation of the stringent and effective legislation of the United States. This bill would not provide, nor did he believe that any other measure could provide, an absolute security for insurers who dealt with private companies; but he suggested that in order to attain that object it might be desirable that the Government, who alone could give a perfect security, should itself undertake the business of life insurance, upon terms which would not bring it into competition with really sound and good companies. He had no special desire to enter upon this task; but if it was the opinion of the House that it would be for the public advantage, he was prepared to undertake it. This intimation was received with some expressions of approval.

After some remarks from Mr. KINNAIRD and Mr. DODSON in support of the bill, it was read a second time.

A second reading was also given to a bill brought in by Mr. Rathbone, to enable attorneys and their clients to contract for a specified remuneration for legal services. After a brief conversation, in which Mr. Henley, Mr. R. Gurney, Mr. Hurst, and Mr. O. Gregory took part.

Mr. WHEELHOUSE brought in a bill to provide for the elementary education of blind and deaf and dumb children.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past three o'clock.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

On Thursday, in reply to Mr. Locke King, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL stated that the statutes down to the 10th George III. have already been expurgated, and that the measure is now being prepared which will carry the whole down to the present day. At the instance of Mr. Pemberton the same right hon. and learned gentleman mentioned the names of the persons against whom the Attorney-General has exhibited informations for bribery at Beverley, Bridgewater, and Norwich, and intimated that, after what had occurred in the Court of Queen's Bench, there was no intention to continue the proceedings against Mr. Lovibond.

Mr. BRUCE stated, in reply to questions, that the Trades Union Bill was in preparation, and that a Census Bill would shortly be introduced.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in reply to Mr. Hardy, promised that the measures relating to the land of the United Kingdom, to which he had alluded in his speech on the Irish Land Bill, should be introduced if possible before the second reading of that bill, or at least before the Committee.

Mr. CHILDERS denied that any men had been discharged from Devonport Dockyard without notice, although in some cases there had been a delay in the reception of pension papers.

The Pilotage Bill was read a second time, Mr. SHAW-LEFEBRE consenting, on the part of the Government, to refer it to a select committee—a decision which was strongly censured by Mr. Gourley, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. Candlish, and others, and defended by Mr. Graves, Mr. Rathbone, Mr. Jessel, and Major Dickson.

THE WAR OFFICE.

On the second reading of the War Office Bill, Mr. CARDWELL, on the invitation of Sir J. Pakington, repeated his explanation of the functions of the two new officers to be created. The Clerk of the Ordnance would combine the functions of the old Clerk of the Ordnance, the Surveyor-General, and the Controller-in-Chief, and, under the Secretary of State, he would be the head of the manufacturing departments. The new Under-Secretary would have charge of the financial details of the War Office, and, under the Secretary of State, would review the estimates. The Secretary of State would represent the military departments, assisted by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, who would represent the department in that House in which the principal Secretary did not happen to be.

Mr. WHITE preferred the old system, under which the Secretary-at-War was a subordinate Minister, and more easily controlled by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; Colonel BARTHELOT expressed a hope that the change would be followed by considerable economies; and Mr. MUNDELLA insisted on the necessity of placing the control of the purchasing departments of the Army, at present grossly mismanaged, under the control of some thorough man of business. In reply to a question from Mr. Hermon, Mr. STANSFELD stated that the salaries of the new officers would be 1,600*l.* a year, and the bill was then read a second time.

The LORD ADVOCATE brought in a bill to abolish feudal and burghage tenure, and to amend the law relating to land rights in Scotland.

The House adjourned at five minutes to seven o'clock.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

On Friday, answering a question from Mr. Pemberton, Mr. GLADSTONE pointed out that the case of Mr. Brogden, reported by the Bridgewater Commissioners to have been guilty of bribery in 1866, did

not come within the provisions of the Corrupt Practices Act, and he refused to say whether the Government intended to propose any special resolution with regard to him until they had had the opportunity of carefully considering the propriety of such a course.

Mr. SOMERSET BEAUMONT asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he had been correctly reported as having said that he was not much in favour of commercial treaties or their negotiation; and when Mr. LOWE said that he did not think that this report was "very inaccurate," the hon. gentleman gave notice that he should on a future day ask the Prime Minister how far he shared this opinion.

Mr. CROSS announced his intention to ask the House to reject the Saving Banks Bill of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

OPEN COMPETITION.

Mr. FAWCETT moved a resolution, calling on the Government, with as little delay as possible, to introduce a measure to establish a system of open competition for appointments in the Civil and Diplomatic Services. His great object, besides improving the efficiency of the service, which the limited system of competition had failed to do, was to restrict political patronage, which he showed tended to corrupt the constituencies and impair the independence of the House.

Mr. GLADSTONE replied that communications had been passing between the Treasury and various departments on the subject, and within a limited period he hoped to be able to announce the establishment of a system of open competition on a sufficiently large scale to give it a fair trial. No Act of Parliament would be necessary—only an Order in Council at most. It was entirely a question of internal administrative changes, which, no doubt, would require very careful consideration. On this Mr. Fawcett withdrew his motion.

THE ROYAL FORESTS.

Mr. GOLDNEY next called attention to the condition of the Royal forests, and sketched out a scheme under which some 40,000 acres of forest lands—about half the area of the Royal forests—at present of no advantage either to the State or individuals, might be sold, and the proceeds (which he estimated at 2,000,000*l.*) applied to the preservation of open spaces for the recreation of the people of large towns.

Mr. C. S. READ, as a practical farmer, was of opinion that a large area of the New Forest, if well drained, might be made to grow grain and roots in considerable quantities.

Mr. STANSFELD, after pointing out that the Forest of Dean was under mineral leases, and that other small Royal forests were under plantation, which could not be made available for years to come, went on to say, with regard to the New Forest, that the attention of the Government had been recently directed to it, and it had been inspected during the recess by Treasury officials. But the Treasury being of opinion that it had not sufficient data to act upon, had directed the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to prepare such a business-like financial statement of the condition of the forest as would be presented by an ordinary land agent to his employer. He reminded the House that the capital of these forests belonged to the Crown, and that it was bound to preserve the rights of the successor to the Throne. He doubted, too, whether the forest was so capable of cultivation as was represented.

Sir J. TRELAHAWY replied that there were ample data for action in the evidence before the committee of 1847; and Mr. BONHAM-CARTER agreed so far with Mr. Goldney and Mr. Read as to think that, by gradual and judicious sales, a large tract of the forest might be brought under cultivation and occupation.

THE WORKHOUSE TEST.

Mr. J. FIELDEN called attention to an instructional letter of the Poor Law Board, dated 1837, which he contended had led to an impression still generally prevalent among the working classes, especially in the North of England, that they could not obtain relief except under the condition of breaking up their homes. He asked Mr. Goschen whether it would be rescinded, and took the opportunity of inveighing strongly against too stringent an application of the workhouse test, which he held was the great cause of the increase of vagrancy.

Mr. GOSCHEN replied that the instruction had long ago been superseded by the General Orders, and was, in fact, obsolete and never acted on. With regard to the general question, he was decidedly against a relaxation of the workhouse test, and was of opinion that the increase of pauperism was due not to a too stringent but to a too lax administration.

A TAXATION HARDSHIP.

Mr. BOURKE brought under notice the practice adopted by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue during the last four years, of charging beyond the *ad valorem* duty upon leases an additional amount of 3*s.*; and the remarks of the hon. and learned gentleman were followed by a chorus of complaints from all parts of the House, and a succession of appeals to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to propose some legislation which may remove all doubts as to the validity of leases which are now said to have been insufficiently stamped, and relieve their holders from any liability to penalties. Mr. LOWE defended the action of the Commissioners, and at first seemed disposed to put off all legislation upon the subject until he can find an opportunity to introduce a bill for the general revision of the Stamps Acts; but at last the pressure was too great even for his powers of resistance, and he was induced to promise that he would bring in a bill with as little delay as possible. Even after this undertaking had been extracted from the

Chancellor of the Exchequer, there was some disposition to continue the debate; but upon an appeal from Mr. GLADSTONE the House consented to postpone further discussion until the promised measure is upon the table.

THE COASTGUARD.

A case of personal grievance, which was brought forward by Sir J. D. HAY, afforded Mr. CHILDERS the opportunity of stating that the Coastguard has recently been converted into an entirely naval force, and will henceforward consist entirely of men-of-war's men, who will go to sea at regular intervals, and will be commanded by naval officers, who will hold their positions for terms similar to those for which they are appointed to ships.

The last subject which came under discussion upon the motion for going into Committee of Supply was the case of the convict Atkins, and when Mr. BRUCE had explained the circumstances under which he had commuted the sentence of death passed upon that prisoner into one of a year's imprisonment, that motion was withdrawn, and the House proceeded to the orders of the day.

The War Office Bill passed through Committee almost without observation; but the second reading of the Coinage Bill led to a more prolonged conversation, in the course of which the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER intimated that he had no intention to legalise the circulation in this country of the new French coin, the 2*s.*-franc piece; and Mr. CRAWFORD mentioned that the Bank of England loses between 4,000*l.* and 5,000*l.* a year by light coin.

The Evidence Amendment Act Amendment Bill was read a second time without opposition.

CLERICAL DISABILITIES.

In committee of the whole House Mr. HIBBERT moved for leave to bring in a bill to enable priests and deacons of the Church of England to divest themselves of their priestly character, and also to relieve them from the disabilities which prevent them sitting in Parliament and holding municipal offices. The mode of divestiture proposed is that a deed of relinquishment shall be executed and enrolled in Chancery, and that an office copy shall be transmitted to the bishop, six months after which the person relinquishing shall cease to enjoy any ecclesiastical privileges. It also provides that any one changing his mind a second time may, with the consent of the Archbishop, execute a deed of revocation of his original relinquishment, with this proviso—that he shall not be eligible for any preferment for two years.

Mr. WALPOLE, admitting the existence of a grievance, did not oppose the introduction of the bill, but he pointed out the grave consequences of making the Church a profession to be taken up and put down lightly without due caution and reflection.

Mr. STANSFELD, on behalf of the Government, assented to the introduction of the bill, which was read a first time.

Mr. DENMAN brought in a bill to amend the Law of Larceny, and the House adjourned at thirty-five minutes past ten o'clock.

STATE OF IRELAND.

On Monday, in answer to Lord John Manners, Mr. GLADSTONE intimated that the Government have no intention to suspend the ordinary constitutional guarantees in Ireland, but that they have under consideration, and hope soon to announce, certain measures for facilitating the enforcement of the law in that country. At the same time, he informed the House that there are circumstances which will account for the failure of justice in the case of the man Barrett, recently tried for murder in Dublin, without attributing to any of those who were concerned in the proceedings an indisposition to discharge their duty.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. CHILDERS promised that in June or July, *i.e.*, at the commencement of the cool season, a ship shall be added to the Australian and New Zealand squadron to watch the proceedings of masters of vessels engaged in the deportation of South Sea Islanders.

Mr. GLADSTONE held out good hopes that in the course of a few weeks the Government would be able to introduce a measure to extend and improve the parochial schools of Scotland, and make further provision for the education of the people of that country. The same right hon. gentleman explained to Mr. Somerset Beaumont that all that was meant by Mr. Lowe when he said that he was not in favour of commercial treaties, was that he approached these negotiations with adverse prepossessions, and added that in fact similar views were entertained by Mr. Cobden at the time that he negotiated the French treaty.

Mr. OTWAY announced that the Spanish Government have at last released the British sailor who has been imprisoned at Barcelona since June, 1867; and Mr. CARDWELL informed the House that arrangements have been made for the organisation in every regiment of the army of a corps of artisans who may work at the trades at which they have been instructed, in connection with the supply of their clothing and subsistence, the stores required for their use, the repair of barrack damages, &c.

In answer to Sir H. SELWIN-IBBETSON, Mr. W. E. FORSTER contradicted the report that the contemplated site for the London Foreign Cattle-market is likely to be insufficient in the event of the cattle from several foreign markets being declared infected; and Sir J. HAY questioned Mr. BAXTER as to a recent improvident sale of anchors in the dockyards. Mr. BAXTER, in a reply which Lord H. LENNOX afterwards characterised as most unsatisfactory, admitted that a mistake had been made, which he divided between the Controller of

the Navy and the clerks in the Store Department; but, owing to the handsome conduct of the contractors, it had not cost the country a shilling.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

Mr. CHILDERS then moved the Navy Estimates in a speech of considerable length, much of which was imperfectly heard, owing to the Minister addressing himself chiefly to his own side of the House and turning his back on the gallery. He commenced by stating the gross amount of the Estimates at 9,250,000*l.*, and comparing them with the Estimates of former years, he showed that they were the lowest since 1857-8, and involved a saving of three-quarters of a million on last year's Estimates. Passing to the particulars of the reduction, he stated that in the vote for pay and allowances there was a saving of 100,000*l.*, there being a reduction of 2,000 in the number of men and boys employed. In the vote for clothing there was a saving of 205,000*l.*, stores 47,000*l.*, shipbuilding 300,000*l.*, civil departments 10,000*l.*, and transport service 57,000*l.* On the other side there was an increase for the extension of the dockyards, and of 189,000*l.* for the non-effective services. He then proceeded to explain the policy of the Admiralty under the heads of the Administration, Shipbuilding, Employment of our Fleet, Number of Men, and Promotion. Under the first head he described in detail the extensive administrative changes made in the various departments, the effect of which, as a rule, had been not only great economy, but largely increased efficiency, and he claimed for the Admiralty the credit of having carried out the disagreeable duty of reduction with the utmost possible consideration for individuals. Under the head of shipbuilding, he stated that when the ships now in course of construction were finished we should have thirty-one broadside armoured vessels and nine turret-ships in addition to an efficient force of armoured ships—a much stronger force, as he showed by comparison, than was possessed either by France or the United States. As to the future, the Admiralty, after careful consideration, had come to the conclusion that in ordinary times we ought to build annually above 12,000 tons of armoured and 7,500 tons of unarmoured ships—4,000 by contract, and the rest in the dockyards. This would require about 6,000 men for building purposes alone, and a dockyard expenditure of about 2,500,000*l.* The shipbuilding programme for the year contemplated twelve new ships, including an improved vessel of the unarmoured Thunderer type, and a frigate of a type intermediate between the Inconstant and Volage, all experience pointing to the supreme importance of pushing on the most powerful class of armoured ships and the fastest cruisers. All our iron ships would be kept in order to go to sea, and the result, with the arrangements for the Reserve which he described, would be that the navy would be in a more thoroughly efficient condition than at any time in its history. Though satisfied with the service gun up to the 12-inch gun, the Admiralty had come to the conclusion that it was not powerful enough for the new vessels of the Thunderer type, and they desired, therefore, that there should be a trial between the Whitworth and service guns, restricted entirely to this particular purpose. In explaining the proposed distribution of the fleet, Mr. Childers announced that another Flying Squadron would be despatched this year, and that the coastguard district ships would be sent on a cruise, to form a sort of second Channel Fleet; and he described in detail the means by which the Admiralty proposed to rout out all the useless men in the service, and to strengthen the Reserve, by which he calculated he would secure a reserve of 37,000 bluejackets and marines. Finally, he gave an elaborate exposition of the new plan of retirement, the basis of which is the compulsory retirement of admirals of the fleet at seventy years of age, of admirals and vice-admirals at sixty-five, of rear-admirals at sixty, captains at fifty-five, commanders at fifty, and lieutenants at forty-five. Flag-officers, too, would be compelled to retire after ten years of non-service; captains after seven years, and commanders after five years. The scale of retirement, based on age and service, would range from 200*l.* to 800*l.*, and the list of officers would be reduced to 2,336. The financial effect of the scheme would be—beginning with a loss of 54,000*l.* in the first year—at the end of twenty-five years to save the country from 300,000*l.* to 350,000*l.* a year. Mr. Childers concluded a three hours' speech, abounding in the fullest details about all the departments, by claiming for the Estimates that they provided for efficiency in the public service, economy, and contentment in the navy.

Mr. CORRY commenced his criticisms on the Estimates by an historical retrospect, designed to show that Liberal Governments had always starved the navy, and that the country is indebted solely to Conservative Governments for the preservation of its naval power. These Estimates, he thought, showed a greater regard for hustings pledges than for the efficiency of the service. The reductions had all been carried too far; many were ill-timed, and most of them in a wrong direction. He went through them all *seriatim*, stating his special objections in each. He told some amusing stories, current in the dockyards, of the blunders committed under the new purchase system, and criticised sharply the administrative changes, declaring that they had deprived the Admiralty and the dockyards of all power of meeting an emergency. With the building programme he found many faults, and objected to building another Thunderer until the type had been tried.

Mr. SAMUDA complained of the little encouragement given to private yards in this year's Estimates.

Mr. BAXTER made a spirited and telling reply to Mr. Corry's attacks on the new purchase department; and after a short desultory conversation, in which Sir John Hay, Colonel Gilpin, Mr. Candlish, Mr. H. Vivian, and Mr. Pease took part—the two latter disputing respecting the comparative merits of Welsh and North-country steam coal—the first votes of 61,000 men and boys, and 2,692,731*l.* for their pay and wages, were agreed to.

The War Office Bill and the East India (Law and Regulations) Bill were passed through Committee, and the House adjourned at five minutes past one o'clock.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL.

NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE.

A protracted meeting, to discuss Mr. Forster's bill and decide the course of action, was held by the Central Executive Council of the National League at Birmingham on Thursday evening. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain presided. Mr. Dixon, M.P., chairman of the Council, the Rev. R. W. Dale, President of the Congregational Union, Mr. George Howell, of London, and the representatives of many leading branches, were present. The Government Education Bill was fully taken into consideration, and it was resolved that the bill of the League should be withheld for the present with the view of obtaining amendments in the Government measure. It was further resolved that, in order to render the Government bill satisfactory, the following provisions must be included:—Local boards to be established immediately in all districts, and in parishes not within the limits of boroughs, to be elected by the ratepayers by ballot. Compulsory attendance of children to be enforced, instead of being left to local boards. Admission to schools established by local boards to be free. Instruction in schools established by local boards and in schools receiving grants from the rates to be entirely unsectarian, and in all schools receiving Government grants religious education to be separated from secular by being given either before or after the ordinary school duties, children whose parents object not being obliged to attend. It was further resolved that amendments to secure these objects should be moved in committee of the House of Commons, and that a deputation should wait upon Ministers to enforce the views of the League. It was also resolved that petitions to Parliament should be prepared. A deputation from the Welsh Education Union attended the meeting, and urged the importance of unity between the two bodies. A determination was manifested to spare no labour to make the Government bill a really acceptable measure.

A requisition is now in course of signature, addressed to the Mayor of Birmingham (Mr. Prime), asking his worship to convene a town's meeting, at an early day, to consider the Education Bill introduced into the House of Commons by her Majesty's Government. A circular has been issued convening a private meeting of Nonconformist ministers and laymen, to consider what action should be taken by Nonconformists in reference to Mr. Forster's Education Bill, "which practically empowers vestries to levy a new Church-rate." The meeting will be held in Carr's-lane Lecture-room this afternoon. The circular is signed by ministers representing the Congregationalist, Baptist, and Wesleyan bodies.

NONCONFORMIST M.P.'S AND THE BILL.

On Thursday morning, on the invitation of Mr. Candlish, the member for Sunderland, a number of members of Parliament belonging to the various Nonconformist denominations met at the Alexandra Hotel, London, to consider the Government Education Bill. Mr. Candlish presided. Mr. Edward Baines, Mr. Alderman Carter, Mr. S. Morley, Mr. E. Miall: Mr. McArthur, Lambeth; Mr. Miller, Edinburgh; Mr. Ryland, Mr. McLaren; Mr. Allen, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Mr. Stevenson, South Shields; Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Gourley, Sunderland; Mr. Macfie, Leith; and Mr. H. Edwards, Weymouth; the Hon. Colonel Edwards, Haverfordwest, and others, were present. Mr. Miall pronounced the bill on the whole to be good, but said the conscience clause was objectionable. It would afford no protection either in large towns or in rural districts. He was also of opinion that no conscience clause would be effective, nor did he attach much importance to the teaching of religion in day-schools at all. To make the school teacher a religious teacher would be to relieve others, whose proper duty it was, of their responsibility, and that was not desirable. To leave religion out of day-schools he thought would give a higher character to its teaching in Sunday-schools and other places of religious instruction. Middle-class schools did not attempt to teach religion, and why should these be made to do so? The less they depended upon day-school teachers and the more they left the matter with parents and religious teachers, the better. In denominational schools he would have religious instruction imparted only in separate hours. He was for direct, instead of indirect compulsion, if the new schools should be secular. Mr. McArthur objected to the conscience clause, and was favourable to separate religious and secular teaching, as in the Irish model schools. Mr. J. Howard, Bedford, said the Government was apparently shirking the religious difficulty, and throwing it upon the people. Mr. H. Edwards thought the bill unconstitutional in giving power to local authorities to establish denominational schools. In Wales it could not, and would not, be accepted. Mr.

McLaren would have Bible-reading introduced, but no creeds or sectarian teaching. He was to a great extent in favour of free schools, as he thought they had done much for Scotland. Mr. Rylands was strongly opposed to the extension of the denominational schools, and had no faith in the conscience clause. Rather than accept the bill as it now stands, he would prefer waiting another year. Mr. Illingworth was of opinion that vested interests should be fairly dealt with, but he would have all new schools purely secular. Mr. Alderman Carter was for free secular schools, and compulsory attendance at all new schools established by Government. He was also favourable to the separation of religious and secular instruction in denominational schools. The meeting then appointed a committee to draw up resolutions to be submitted at a future meeting, and then an adjournment took place.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

WELSH ESTIMATE OF THE BILL.

The Executive Committee of the Welsh Educational Alliance which was appointed to report on the Government Education Bill, have met and passed resolutions, the main points of which are as follow. The committee protests against the measure being carried into law chiefly on the following grounds:—That it does not extend the blessing of free education to all children alike, and that it will employ the funds of the State for the direct teaching of religion in schools. They consider the conscience clause wholly indefensible in principle and impossible in practice. That it will establish a system of concurrent endowment, as objectionable in its nature as that condemned last session by the whole nation with regard to the churches in Ireland. Objection is made to the delegation of the control and management to three persons without restriction; and the impossibility to maintain for any length of time the present undenominational system in Ireland, thus necessitating the handing over of the education of the Irish people to the Roman Catholic priesthood. Exception is taken to the election of school boards by town councils and vestries, instead of by the direct vote of the ratepayers, and to the fact that there is no provision for anything higher than elementary education, thus virtually excluding the children of the middle-classes from the benefits of a national measure. The committee consider that the Government measure will render every school district a scene of religious strife. That under it, by the employment of schools for the purpose of religious worship, funds which have been expressly raised for the purposes of elementary education may be diverted in their application so as to afford the means of encouraging a most unjustifiable system of church extension. Finally, they contend that the bill is incomplete, inasmuch as all the minutes of the Committee of Council on Education to which it refers should be incorporated with it.

Considerable opposition to the bill is being manifested in South Wales. At a public meeting at Rhymney the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—"That this meeting greatly laments that the educational measure of the Government contains plans of action altogether inconsistent with the liberty of Nonconforming consciences; and desires that Mr. H. Richard and his fellow representatives from Wales in Parliament should oppose the measure to the utmost."

LORD SHAFTESBURY'S OPINIONS.

Last week the Earl of Shaftesbury attended the annual meeting of the Limehouse Ragged Schools, and took occasion to advert to the Government Education Bill, especially in its bearing on those institutions. Having highly praised Mr. Forster, and spoken of the bill as being as moderate and as safe a one as he could have introduced, considering the demands made by the country for a general measure of education based on the compulsory principle, his lordship expressed his belief that the measure would materially and injuriously affect ragged-schools:—

What would be the effect of the system proposed by the Government bill on such a school as that, for instance? A Government inspector would be sent down into the district, and much would depend on the efficiency of the man so selected, so far as the character of his report was concerned. He might know something of ragged-schools and be in favour of their extension, or he might, on the other hand, have a settled prejudice against them. In the latter case, his report would recommend a new system of schools and school accommodation in the district. He would entirely ignore such schools as the Limehouse Ragged Schools, and on his report, Government would issue the necessary orders to the local authorities, and schools could be established to be carried on on that normal system which pervaded all those under Government control. All the compulsion that could possibly be exercised would, he believed, be powerless to bring the wild vagrant class under tuition in such schools. (Hear, hear.) The local authorities would be weary with the thousands of these children they would have to deal with, and numbers of those who were now receiving a sound religious and secular education would be thrown friendless upon the streets. None of those blessed agencies that were now producing such marked results in that district would then be brought to bear upon the little vagabonds of society, and he should not be at all surprised to hear Sir Robert Carden (who was upon the platform) announce from his seat on the magisterial bench in ten years' time that juvenile delinquency and depravity had increased tenfold. That, of course, was on the assumption that these ragged-schools were done away with entirely, and no precisely parallel agency established in their place. There were at the present time some 2,300 teachers (and more than 30,000 children under daily care) engaged in the ragged-school movement, all working voluntarily, and no certificated masters and mistresses could come up to the standard of those teachers who engaged in the work of looking after the little waifs of society from a feeling that it was an act of paramount duty they owed

to their Lord and Master. The very system of Government school education precluded moral training. He had never said the ragged-school system was perfect, but he would repeat now what he had before this asserted in the House of Commons, in the House of Lords, and at public meetings—namely, that while learned professors were deliberating year after year on what should be done, the ragged-schools were in full operation. Had it not been for the ragged-school system, which the Government inspectors would no doubt endeavour to crush into the dust, 400,000 children would never have learned one particle of their duty to man, or have one shade of an idea of their hope in God. (Cheers.) There were, however, minute details in the ragged-school system which he was convinced it was perfectly impossible ever to carry out under a Government system of national education. (Hear, hear.) The effect of the Government bill would be to dry up all sources of voluntary contribution, for the moment it was known that Government would come down with grants of money they might depend upon it that voluntary contributions would entirely cease, and the whole thing would rest on the imperial funds and local rates. After adverting to the importance of religious teaching, which in the Government bill, if not prohibited, was not enjoined, the noble lord concluded by saying that he hoped that teachers would earnestly strive to infuse into the hearts of the children the love of the Saviour, and thus bring the most destitute and ignorant up to the level of the best and greatest. Nothing could be more grateful to all of them in their last hours than the reflection that they had been enabled, by the blessing of God, to do their duty in that station of life to which it had pleased God to call them. (Loud cheers.)

MR. MELLY, M.P., ON THE BILL.

Mr. George Melly, the senior member for Stoke-on-Trent, addressed a meeting at Longton on Saturday evening, on the Government bill. He warmly approved of the bill so far as it laid down the principle of compulsory education, and gave power to town councils and vestries to build free schools, but he objected to its provision leaving it to the school board to say what religion should be taught, and allowing it to pass by the clauses as to compulsory attendance at school. He heartily supported the bill because it laid down the principle of compulsory rating, and said that the education of the country should not be carried on by charity or by bigotry, as it was now carried on—either, on the one side, by the voluntary efforts of good, true, earnest men, or by people who had in view the secondary object of teaching children what they wished them to believe. The bill had done away with voluntary effort, and he did not believe another voluntarily-paid-for school would be built in the country. In speaking of the permissive clauses of the bill, he objected that in rural districts the school boards would be mainly composed of Churchmen, who would, of course, adopt a religious teaching in accordance with their own principles without considering the Dissenter, who would pay the education rate equally with the Churchman. Mr. Melly spoke of the enunciation of the principle of compulsion as a most courageous one on the part of any statesman, and said its declaration by Mr. Forster fell upon the House like a thunderclap. The most advanced educationist in the House had not expected this principle to be laid down in the bill; and if there had been a division on the clause at the time of its proposal he believed it would have been rejected. But members were being rapidly educated, and the feeling of the country was shown to be in favour not merely of giving power to school boards to make attendance at school compulsory, but of the Legislature enforcing compulsion, and not leaving it an open question to school boards. And with regard to the religious question, there must be no invidious distinctions, but all children must be allowed to go on terms of perfect equality. Mr. Melly said he was extremely gratified with the tone of the clergy on the question, and their evident earnestness and determination to have the thing done. The Rev. S. A. Steinthal, of Manchester, who also spoke on the same subject, said every one of the principles of the League was adopted in the Government bill. What they had to look to was the application of those principles, and upon some points the bill went far to neutralise their advantages. Rather than see the religious teaching of the schools thrown in the hands of the clergy, he hoped the bill would be thrown out on the third reading.

SUNDAY MEETINGS AND OPINIONS.

At a meeting of the members of the National Education League, held at the Guildhall, Rochester, last evening, under the presidency of Mr. T. Aveling, the chairman, it was unanimously resolved—"That the committee of the Rochester branch congratulates the Central Committee upon the general scope and tenor of the Government Education Bill, but thoroughly appreciating and endorsing the objections suggested in their circular; and trusts to see amendments and additions correcting them introduced into the bill in Committee of the House. This committee would particularly call the attention of the central committee to the religious animosities likely to arise in the annual election of the school boards, and the necessity for enforcing attendance."

A meeting at Dudley on Wednesday night appears to have broken up in disorder, owing to the uproar created by the out-and-out supporters of the Government Bill.

A conference of trades unions at Halifax has decided in favour of the Government bill.

The Bishop of Ripon attended luncheon after a consecration ceremony on Friday, and spoke of the Government Education Bill. He said the country had reason to be thankful for the introduction of that national measure, which was conceived in a generous and liberal spirit, though some clauses would require most careful watching. It was infinitely superior to any expected from the Government. Churchmen

had every reason to be thankful that the existing system of education would be preserved, and the religious principle maintained.

The Rev. E. A. Abbott, Head Master of the City of London School, complains, in a published letter, that, though a member of the National League, he has never been able to find out whether that body has any principles, or if so what they are. He attended a conference—

The members, it appeared, were divided among themselves whether even the reading of the Bible in common (with exemption where desired) could be sanctioned as sufficiently "unsectarian." It was suggested, as an "unsectarian" scheme, that the pupils should be sorted out on certain religious teaching days into little flocks of sects, each with its separate sectarian shepherd, and this might be done out of school hours. This would not be against the "principle" of the League; but to collect rates or to enforce religious education (even with exemption from the religious part of it) would be contrary to the League's "principles." It did not seem to occur that the teacher's salary is only a part of the expense of teaching. The League could not think of paying a teacher, but they did not mind paying for coals, gas, and rent. In other words their "unsectarian principles" would allow them to levy 2d. for sectarian, but not 6d. for unsectarian instruction.

In a concluding paragraph Mr. Abbott suggests the issue of a "revised edition of the Catechism, divided into parts," as a means of securing "unsectarian education." He supports Mr. Forster's bill.

At a large meeting of the Leicester Education League, held in the Town Hall, on Monday, a strong opinion was expressed against the compulsory clauses of Mr. Forster's bill, and especially against the provisions respecting religious teaching. A house-to-house canvass to elicit the opinions of Nonconformists was agreed upon, and a petition against the general provisions of the bill was adopted.

The clergy belonging to the rural deanery of Gloucester assembled in synod on Saturday to consider the Government Education Bill. After some discussion a resolution was passed approving of the bill, and copies of the resolution were directed to be forwarded to Mr. Forster.

A meeting of the Cambridge Chamber of Agriculture was held at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Saturday, and that portion of the Education Bill which compels the land interest to contribute one-third of the cost of education was discussed. The subject was introduced by Mr. Pell, who moved the following resolution:—"That a petition be presented to Parliament praying that no further addition be made to the burdens already borne by the funds raised by local taxation for imperial purposes till further inquiry has been made as to the incidence of taxation on real and personal property." While Messrs. Martin and Hicks and others supported the motion, Messrs. Hatfield and Smith took objection to it. Mr. Naylor moved the adjournment of the debate, but the original resolution was ultimately carried.

A committee, of which the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Petrie, and Lord Howard of Glossop, are members, has been formed on behalf of English Roman Catholics to watch the course of the Education Bill through Parliament, and to endeavour, in conjunction with several Roman Catholic members of Parliament, to have certain amendments introduced into it. Meetings on the subject have been held repeatedly during the past week.

The Baptist congregation worshipping in the chapel of the Rev. Samuel A. Tipple, at Central-hill, Upper Norwood, addressed to the House of Commons the first petition of the session in favour of compulsory and wholly secular primary education. They state that they consider "there should be no sectarian teaching in the education to be given," but "that, in this respect, it should be similar to the education which, as a rule, satisfies the upper and middle classes of the people, such upper and middle classes being content to pay for a secular education for their children, and religious teaching being afterwards supplied by themselves or by religious teachers belonging to their respective communions."

ECCLIASTICAL ASPECTS OF THE BILL.

The *Daily News* has contributed one or two very able and searching articles to expose the serious defects of Mr. Forster's bill. Our contemporary, after praising some of its features, says that the right hon. gentleman gets rid of the religious difficulty by shunting it, and of the compulsory difficulty by remitting it to the local managers. This is a mistake; for permissive legislation resigns the prerogative of Parliament, and remits to the people of a thousand different localities a discussion and decision which ought to be made once for all by the Imperial Legislature. It destroys the unity of the law, and opens the way for all kinds of evasion and abuse. Parents need compulsion, but the compulsion comes not as the law of the land, but as the bye-law of the district in which they live. It is imposed on them not by the will of Parliament, but by the resolution of Messrs. So-and-So in the school board. Permission means discouragement. Compulsion is in the bill, says Mr. Forster. It would, however, not get into the general system of national education. The principle would be in it here and there, but not in it effectively anywhere, and where it was most wanted it would certainly be absent. The religious difficulty is even more timidly dealt with.

In the first place, Mr. Forster falls back on the old expedient of a conscience clause; an expedient which promises religious liberty in words, and betrays it in action. He makes it a condition that no scholar shall be required to attend any Sunday-school or place of worship, or to learn any catechism or formula, or to be present at any such lesson or instruction or observance "as may have been objected to on religious grounds by the parent or scholar sending his objection

in writing to the managers, or principal teacher of the school, or one of them." It will be seen that this exemption requires a distinct act of dissent on the part of the parent or the scholar. If from fear of offending the parson or the squire, or from dislike of putting his children into an exceptional category, a parent neglects to give a written request to the contrary, his child may be taught any religious lessons the teacher likes. The clause is a trap to catch weak consciences. It throws a thin veil of unsectarian pretence over the ugliest features of sectarian education. Subject to this clause all the old denominational schools are to be kept on, and the new ones to be established are to be denominational or undenominational as the school board may resolve. This system practically amounts to the setting up of a new religious establishment. Town councils and vestries will, under this clause, have the power of electing persons who will decide on the denominational character to be given to the schools of a district. If the Roman Catholics can get a majority on the board, all the schools may be made Roman Catholic; if the Ritualists, or Evangelicals, or any denomination of Nonconformists, can get the upper hand, the national schools will adopt their tenets. A new zest will hereafter be given to municipal elections and to country vestries if this clause is to stand. The Church-rate war in the parishes will have been nothing to the new religious war which will soon be raging along the whole line of local administration. Mr. Forster will not only have revived it, but will have given the combatants something worth fighting for. So great a calamity can, however, only be avoided in one way. The conscience clause must be abolished. The whole of the religious education must be separated from the secular instruction, and withdrawn from all contact with the national element in the schools. The fatal provision by which the local managers may, with consent of the Education Department, ask for Government inspection of their religious teaching, must be taken out. These changes, coupled with the transference of the compulsory rule from a mere local bye-law to an Imperial Act, will make the bill a most efficient and satisfactory settlement of the whole question; a settlement which will even then be a compromise, but a compromise which all parties will in the end accept as giving them all they can reasonably require.

In a second article the *Daily News* says it must be already evident to the Vice-President of the Committee of Council that the religious difficulty in national education is a steeper hill than it appeared to be as he looked at it from a distance. The national schools under the new bill will be a new national establishment, but one which will be Church of England here and Roman Catholic there, Wesleyan in one part of a town and Congregationalist in another part; Evangelical under one school board, Ritualist or Rationalist under another. The plan is not altogether unlike a system under which each of our parish churches was to be put under an elected board, who should give the pulpit to any denomination they liked, provided only that nobody was excluded from the worship; and the sacraments were free to all denominations. It is obvious that nothing can be truly national which belongs only to a section of the nation, and it would be absurd to call any denominational school a national school. The function of Government is secular, and its duty is to see that the secular instruction of its children is efficiently provided for; but even to inquire into religious instruction as the bill does is to go beyond its functions. The fact is that religious education, as those who are most interested in it witness, will never be so well looked after as when it is left to voluntary zeal. Let the State teach all it can, and make an instructed nation, and then the Church will take up the children where the State leaves them, and make of an intelligent and instructed people a religious people. The national schools must be schools to which all the nation can go without any one being put in an exceptional list, towards which all the nation can contribute without any sense of injury or wrong, and about which theological and ecclesiastical discussions can no more be raised than they can about the national telegraphs, the national Post-office, or the national debt.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The Land Bill (says a Dublin letter) is in danger of being torn in pieces between conflicting interests. The Tenant Leagues and Farmers' Clubs unanimously condemn the bill. What the exact form of their hostility may be it is not easy to conjecture, for some of these bodies, although bearing the high-sounding name of "League," and assuming great representative importance, are of mushroom growth, and look formidable only in print. The strongest declaration against the bill is from Mr. Butt, Q.C., the president of the Irish Tenant League, whose professional character and the special attention which he has devoted to the subject give weight to his opposition. He contends that the Government scheme leaves to the landlord the arbitrary power of eviction, and that the advantage of being subject to a twelve months' instead of a six months' notice is more imaginary than real, as it would be counteracted by the extension by the landlord of the practice of issuing annual notices to quit. He says it leaves untouched those cruel and oppressive contracts by which the tenant is bound to dispense with the usual notices, and give up possession on demand. He further objects that endless litigation will arise from the unsatisfactory way in which the principles which are to regulate the amount of compensation are defined. He is afraid that in the majority of cases the yearly tenant will not be able to establish any claim for improvements, and that the compensation for eviction will be reduced to whatever the tribunal may award him for loss of his occupation. There are many estates on which the arrears of rent hanging over for years will enable the landlord to evict on the next gale day, and in these cases the effect of the bill will be to

insure the tenant's eviction. There are also cases in which the tenant has signed an agreement not to improve without the landlord's consent, and in such cases no claim can be made. He thinks no measure ought to be accepted as a satisfactory settlement of the land question "which will still leave in serfdom and bondage, and liable to oppression, to capricious eviction, to arbitrary increase of rents, a large number of the occupiers of the Irish soil," and that "such a measure, even if beneficial in some respects, will leave in our social system elements of discord and disorder which will yet shake Irish society to its base."

Mr. Kinneally, hon. secretary to the Kilkenny Tenant League, declares with pithy plainness that the members "reject and repudiate it as false, fraudulent, worthless, and hypocritical."

The Cork Farmers' Club, on Saturday, decided that the Government Land Bill will leave intact the worst evils of the present system, which they say are distress for rent, exorbitant rents, capricious evictions, and rules of estates. They complain that it will reduce the maximum tenure to thirty-one years' leases, promote evictions, and create jealousy by the distinction made between Ulster and the other provinces.

At a meeting of the tenantry of Queen's County on Monday a protest against the Land Bill was adopted, and it was resolved to send a deputation to London on the subject. Deputations from Kilkenny, Tipperary, Meath, Kildare, Wexford, Waterford, Clare, Longford, Mayo, and Fermanagh, are also being organised.

The Mallow Farmers' Club have pronounced the Land Bill inadequate, and demanded ninety-one years' leases and compensation clauses.

On the other hand, the O'Donoghue, M.P., has written a letter advising the members of the Irish National Land Conference not to come to London to urge their amendments to Mr. Gladstone's bill till after the second reading has been passed. In his letter the O'Donoghue says he is far from being disappointed with the general character of the proposal of the Government. He adds: "I believe that the man who would counsel its rejection would be shouted at from one end of Ireland to the other as a rogue or an ass."

It is stated that the Government has ordered a further inquiry into the land customs of Ulster.

A second meeting of Irish M.P.'s is to be held tomorrow, to consider the provisions of the Irish Land Bill. The meeting is convened by members for Ulster constituencies, being for the most part Conservatives, and favourable to the bill. They have invited their fellow-members, without consideration of differences of political opinion, to discuss the subject, with the view of arriving at some common course of action upon the bill. It is expected that at this meeting Mr. P. O'Brien will advocate the extension of the Ulster tenant right to the whole of Ireland, and will recommend that an amendment to this effect should be proposed on the second reading of the Irish Land Bill.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen, accompanied by the Princesses Louise and Beatrice, arrived at Buckingham Palace on Thursday afternoon, from Windsor Castle. Her Majesty held a court at Buckingham Palace on Friday. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince and Princess Christian, and the other Princesses, were present. The court was largely attended by foreign Ambassadors, Cabinet Ministers, and their ladies. The members of the Royal Family were warmly cheered by the spectators who had assembled to witness the arrivals. On Saturday her Majesty returned to Windsor.

On Sunday the Rev. A. Stopford Brooke, honorary chaplain to the Queen, preached before her Majesty and the Court, in the Private Chapel, Windsor.

By command of the Queen a levée, the first of the present season, was held yesterday at St. James's Palace, by the Prince of Wales on behalf of her Majesty. The presentations were very numerous.

The movements of the Prince of Wales during the past week are a subject of more than ordinary interest. On Monday evening the Prince and Princess were present at the Globe Theatre, when the latter was received with enthusiastic cheers, whilst there were unmistakeable indications of the public feeling with respect to the former. On Wednesday evening, again, at a public dinner, when the health of the Prince was proposed, the company responded by giving, with marked emphasis, the name of "The Princess." On Wednesday the Prince and Princess dined with Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone; on Thursday the Prince with Earl Granville. On Friday both of them, as well as the Duchess of Sutherland, the Dowager Duchess of Athole, the Countess of Macclesfield, and Viscount Bridport, dined with the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The Prince of Wales visited the Adelphi Theatre on Saturday evening, and met with an enthusiastic reception.

The Prince of Wales and a distinguished party are this week visiting Lincolnshire to hunt the Burton county with Mr. H. Chaplin. The visit is strictly private. They will next week visit the Duke and Duchess of Manchester at Kimbolton Castle, near Huntingdon, where a select party is invited to meet them.

The Princess of Wales was present at a lecture given by Professor Max Muller at the Royal Institution on Saturday.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, with one or more of the Royal children, are expected to pay a visit to Belfast about Easter, for the purpose of un

veiling a statue of the late Prince Consort, in connection with the Albert memorial recently erected.

The Queen of the Netherlands, now sojourning in England, was in the House of Commons Ladies' Gallery on Friday evening. In the morning Queen Victoria called on her at Claridge's Hotel. The Earl and Countess of Clarendon entertained the Queen of the Netherlands at dinner on Saturday evening. A select party were invited to meet her Majesty and suite, who has left town for Torquay.

The Countess Granville gave birth to a daughter on Friday night; the Countess and infant are both doing well.

At the Cabinet Council on Saturday all the Cabinet Ministers were present except Mr. Bright.

The *Economist* estimates that Mr. Lowe will find himself with a surplus of about 4,500,000*l.*, probably the largest that an English Chancellor of the Exchequer has ever had to give away.

We (*Times*) have authority for stating that Mr. Bright is progressing favourably, and that he is by degrees regaining his health. The unfavourable reports which have been in circulation the few days are without foundation.

The Marquis of Hartington and Earl Spencer were last week elected by the Committee, under rule 3, members of the Reform Club.

Mr. Richard R. Holmes, of the British Museum, has been appointed Librarian to the Queen at Windsor Castle.

Professor Kingsley has returned from his visit to the West Indies.

In compliance with a resolution moved at a meeting of Peers held at the Carlton Club on Saturday, by the Marquis of Salisbury, and seconded by the Earl of Derby, and agreed to unanimously, the Duke of Richmond has accepted the post of leader of the Conservative party in the House of Lords.

The Misses Waddington, of London, have given 3,000*l.* to provide a classical scholarship in the Cambridge University, to be called the Waddington Scholarship, in memory of their brother, the late Dean of Durham, and the late Right Hon. Horatio Waddington.

A number of gentlemen of all politics, at Liverpool, have subscribed for, and are about to present to the town, a statue of Mr. Gladstone. The sculptor is Mr. Adams Aclon. The statue will probably be placed in St. George's Hall.

Postscript.

Wednesday, March 2nd, 1870.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

The House of Lords sat for only a short time last night, but the Judges' Jurisdiction Bill and the Sunday Trading Bill were each advanced a stage, and Lord Redesdale laid upon the table a bill by which he proposes so to amend the Irish Church Act as to give the new governing body of the Church the revenues of all livings falling vacant during the present year.

In the House of Commons, Mr. NEWDEGATE gave notice, for the 29th March, to move for an inquiry into the extension of monastic institutions in this country, and also into their mode of acquiring and of holding property.

Mr. FAWCETT, for that day month, to move the consideration of the memorial from the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, in favour of undenominational education; and also for an undenominational distribution of emoluments, distinctions, and degrees.

Mr. BRUCE expressed a hope that in the course of the present session he shall be able to bring in a bill to consolidate the eab laws.

STATE AID TO EMIGRATION.

Subsequently there was a prolonged and interesting discussion on Mr. R. R. Torrens' motion that the Government should provide facilities for the emigration of poor families to the British colonies. Mr. TORRENS said that as a resident for twenty years in the colonies, he was painfully struck with the extent of distress which had so long prevailed in the mother country, and he believed that a plan of free emigration, such as he proposed, would greatly mitigate the sufferings of the poor. He did not wish that only the young and strong should be sent out, neither did he advocate the emigration of paupers, but that fathers of families of middle age, with their wives and children, should be removed from a country where they would inevitably sink into the pauper class, to one where they would speedily obtain employment, and so save themselves from that misfortune. The colonies, for various reasons, were not willing to provide all the outlay that was required for such a purpose, and therefore he inquired what could be done at home. He proposed that the guardians of the poor should be allowed to borrow money of the Government repayable in twenty-five years; and that transport ships now lying idle should be placed at the disposal of those who wished to emigrate. By adopting such a plan as this, 50,000 persons could be removed to Canada and Australia at an outlay of 1,000,000*l.* sterling. Mr. EASTWICK, from the Opposition benches, seconded the motion, and pointed out the fact that 40,000 labourers would be required on the railways which

were now projected in Canada. Mr. MONSELL, in replying to the mover and second of the motion, disputed the fact that the distress was unparalleled. He referred to a time about twenty-two years back when a similar agitation to this was got up. That agitation had died out, because "spontaneous emigration" had carried off in such large numbers the surplus population. He predicted that if we attempted to force a certain class of emigrants upon the colonies, we should have to meet another convict question. They would unanimously reject any proposal to send out any but the best class of emigrants, and these they would choose for themselves, and pay for as they required them. Speaking as an Irishman, he reminded the House that the funds for emigration of Irishmen to other countries had been freely provided by the people themselves, and that the interference of the Government would be the signal for a cessation of all such voluntary efforts. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON commented on the omission of any reference to the prevailing distress in the Queen's Speech. The existence of that distress was well known, and therefore the omission of reference to it showed a want of sympathy for the parties suffering from it. He approved of the motion before the House, and considered that the Government had as good warrant for lending money out of the Consolidated Fund to promote emigration as they had to assist those landlords in Ireland who were willing to improve their estates. Mr. S. AYTON and Mr. MACFIE followed on the same side, the latter dwelling especially upon the necessity of consolidating the empire. Mr. TALBOT, the Conservative member for West Kent, made an able and temperate speech in support of the motion, and commented upon the course which the present Government had adopted with reference to the discharge of workmen from the Woolwich dockyards. The distress in Woolwich was most severe and widespread, and the workmen were anxious to emigrate. He considered the reply of the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies a most inadequate one, and hoped that a more explicit declaration would be given from the Treasury Bench. Mr. MELLY thought that it was the duty of the Government to press forward reforms at home rather than give aid to emigration schemes. Let them provide education for the people, remove temptations to intemperance and those obstacles which impede the progress of free labour. Mr. T. Chambers supported, Mr. Muntz opposed, and the Hon. Arthur Kinnaid and Sir J. Lawrence again supported the motion of the hon. member for Cambridge.

The debate during the dinner hour was continued by Mr. ARTHUR PREL, who spoke on behalf of the Poor Law Board, Mr. Brassey, Sir H. Verney, and Mr. Newdegate. The House was beginning to fill when Sir C. DILKE rose to address the House from the front Liberal Bench below the gangway. He recalled the House to the terms of the resolution, and pointed out that that resolution taken in itself would bind the Government to do no more than was already done to facilitate emigration. Taken, however, in connection with the various speeches which had been made in support of it, it would commit them to some scheme of State emigration, and of lending money on the security of colonial lands. These lands were now the property of the colonies, and could not thus be dealt with by the Home Government. He further showed that either as a "colonial" agitation, or a "distress" agitation, this movement was a mistake. The hon. gentleman concluded an able and spirited speech of about half an hour's length amid loud and general cheering. Mr. W. M. TORRENS, who was very imperfectly heard in the gallery, said that he had listened with great surprise to the speech of the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and drew repeated cheers from both sides of the House, as he emphatically, and with evident feeling and earnestness, explained the meaning of the expression "spontaneous emigration," which that gentleman had made use of. "Spontaneous emigration!" He should have thought that his right hon. friend, with his local knowledge of Ireland, would have shrunk from speaking of the emigration of 1847 and 1848 as a triumph of spontaneous emigration. That emigration was, in fact, caused by one of the most fearful calamities that ever fell upon a civilised country. The people fled for their lives. Three things were tried to meet the famine. The Government of the day first had stretched the Poor Law until it cracked, and then they tried a rate in aid, and lastly they had recourse to public charity, and all these failed to produce the desired result. The people did not go until they were convinced the Government would not do the only thing for them they could do—viz., save their lives.

Mr. GLADSTONE described the vagueness of the resolution, and the difference between the reasons which had been advanced for its adoption by its supporters; and distinctly declined on the part of the Government to assent to any motion which, while prescribing no definite mode of action, was simply recommended upon the ground that it had the appearance of doing something for the relief of distress. At the same time he pointed out that in this matter a great deal of practical work was done by the Government, and a good deal of effectual assistance was rendered to people desirous to emigrate. But there were great practical difficulties in the way of any general scheme of State emigration. It should be remembered that the expense of any such scheme must fall upon the great body of the taxpayers. If you want millions you must tax the millions. A large portion of our taxation is still paid by the labouring classes, many of whom are only a stage above pauperism themselves.

There is (he continued), another difficulty which I cannot get over. It does not apply to self-supporting

emigration, or emigration carried on by voluntary means; but I want to know if the State is to send forth its agents all over the country and ask A, B, C, and D to emigrate, or to say, "If you wish to emigrate, here is the money for you, and there is the ship at Liverpool and Bristol, you have only to be there at such a time," how are you to escape future responsibility for the condition of those men? (Hear, hear.) Then again, where are the emigrants to be sent to? My hon. friend says that three-fourths of them go to the United States, whilst he would send them exclusively to the British colonies. I would ask him, would such compulsion be likely to make the emigrants loyal and loving subjects of the British crown? But then, after all comes the question of taking a portion of the community, and providing for them at the expense of the rest. And mind, too, they are not to be paupers. We are to supply public funds for persons who are not paupers, and thus for the first time to recognise the principle that persons who are not destitute are to be entitled to public support. (Hear, hear.) I should like to know where we are to stop. (Hear, hear.) I should like to know what safeguards my hon. friend proposes against the mischief of such a system.

In the face of these difficulties the Government could not assent to the adoption of a resolution which appeared to affirm the principle of such a scheme.

The House divided after a few words in reply by Mr. R. R. Torrens, when the numbers were

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| For the motion | 48 |
| Against | 153 |

Majority against 105

PUBLIC-HOUSES ON SUNDAY.—A deputation yesterday waited upon Mr. Bruce, and presented a memorial in favour of closing public-houses and beer-shops entirely on Sundays. The Home Secretary stated that it would be his duty soon to lay before the House of Commons a measure which, he hoped, would have a very strong influence in reducing the great evil complained of. Although it would not go quite so far as the deputation might wish, yet he believed its provisions were as stringent as Parliament was likely to sanction.

After a two days' debate the punishment of death has been struck out from the new penal code for the North German Confederation, notwithstanding a speech from Count Bismark strongly opposing this alteration of the law. There were 118 votes in favour of the abolition, and 81 against it.

The news relative to the progress of the Great Eastern with the cable from Bombay places it, on Friday last, 215 miles from Adon, in 1,000 fathoms of water. She would probably reach that port last Sunday.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

At Mark-lane to-day, the grain trade has been quiet, and the quotations have been without movement. The receipts of English wheat have been only moderate. The attendance of millers has been limited. Trade has been heavy for both red and white produce, at about late rates. There has been a moderate show of foreign wheat on the stands. The inquiry has been limited, on former terms. Moderate supplies of barley have been on offer. Sales have progressed slowly, at about previous quotations. Malt has been quiet, at late rates. Oats, the show of which has been fair, have been dull and drooping. Beans and peas have been neglected. Transactions in flour have been to a very moderate extent, at the prices previously current.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

| | Wheat. | Barley. | Malt. | Oats. | Flour. |
|------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|----------|
| English & Scotch | 680 | 50 | 1,010 | — | — |
| Irish | — | — | — | — | — |
| Foreign | — | 400 | — | 1,450 | 240 sks. |

THE SINAITIC PENINSULA.—On Friday evening an interesting lecture was delivered at the Royal Institution by Captain Wilson, of the Royal Engineers. The lecturer stated that the Rev. Pierce Butler, who died on the 8th of February, 1860, had collected the sum of 600*l.* towards defraying the cost of an expedition for the exploration of the Sinaitic peninsula. After his death, his friends, having gathered a sufficient amount of money, applied to the Topographical Office for officers and men to carry out the survey. Captain Wilson, whose name is familiar to the public in connection with the recent excavations and surveys at Jerusalem, was detailed for this duty. He was accompanied by Captain Palmer, R.E., Mr. Palmer, Mr. Holland, and four sappers. From November, 1868, until May, 1869, these gentlemen were employed in minutely examining the Sinaitic peninsula, more particularly in the track supposed to have been taken by the children of Israel at the time of the Exodus. The lecturer is decidedly of opinion that the Israelites crossed the Red Sea a little above Suez—and that they then proceeded down the western side of the peninsula till they came to the latitude of Jebel Lerbai and Jebel Musa, both which mountains, each about 8,500 feet in height, laid claim to the honour of being the true Mount Sinai. Jebel Musa is, Captain Wilson considers without doubt, the Mount Sinai of the Scriptures. Captain Wilson gave an interesting account of the whirlwinds and sudden storms which occur in the country, and also of the monasteries which crown the Sinaitic Mountains. The lecture was illustrated by some very fine photographs taken by a sergeant who was attached to the expedition. By the aid of the electric light the pictures were thrown upon a white surface, and exquisite effects were produced. One of the above-mentioned gentlemen, who is dependent on voluntary subscriptions for funds, is now in Sinai prosecuting further researches.

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The Chair will be taken by Rev. MARK WILKS.

Ladies are specially invited.

Admission free. Commence at Eight o'clock.

WILLIAM THEOBALD, Hon. Sec.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1870.

SUMMARY.

THE Tory peers have at length got their new leader. Next to Lord Derby and Lord Salisbury, the name of the Duke of Richmond was most in favour. His Grace has consented to don the responsibilities relinquished by Lord Cairns, and he took his seat in the middle of the front Opposition bench on Monday—Lord Salisbury and Lord Carnarvon having abandoned the cross benches to sit by him. The leading members of the party are now as united as sitting on the same bench can make them. Beyond this transaction, the Lords—for we are too apt to identify their lordships entirely with the Tory party—have done nothing during the week, save to carry through three steps without debate the important measure for reorganising our judiciary, so entirely is it approved; and briefly to discuss the Sunday Trading Bill, which makes an annual promenade under Lord Chelmsford's auspices, and then mysteriously disappears.

The past week in the House of Commons, though far from interesting, has not been resultless. The Bill of Mr. Cave, providing public safeguards in respect to Life Assurance Companies, was discussed at length in the quiet of a Wednesday afternoon. Its provisions are so generally approved that it is likely to become law, unless arrested by the suggestion thrown out, half-jestingly, by Mr. Lowe that the State should become life-insurer-in-chief for the nation. We had better, at all events, wait and see how the telegraphs work under Government management. With due reservation of theoretical Crown rights, the Government undertake to do something for utilising royal forests. Mr. Goldney would fain sell some forty thousand acres of forest land at present of no advantage to any one, and apply the proceeds, estimated at two millions, to the preservation of open spaces for the recreation of people in large towns; but the Treasury will only at present engage to see what can be effected in respect to a portion of the New Forest. Mr. Gladstone has promised a new regulation still further throwing open civil and diplomatic offices to competition, and he will introduce his Bill for facilitating the purchase of land in the United Kingdom before the Committee on the Irish tenant-right measure.

The War Office Bill provides for placing an Under Secretary in that department to take care of the finances of the Horse Guards. If Captain Vivian proves as efficient in checking extravagance in the army as Mr. Baxter has done in the navy, he will be a benefactor to the British taxpayer. What great reforms have been effected at the Admiralty was explained at length in a three hours' speech by the First Lord on Monday night. The sum and substance

of Mr. Childers' interesting statement is that the entire department has been overhauled, sinecures abolished, needless work suspended, useless ships and stores sold, corrupt purchases put an end to, and the dockyards put under stringent control. By this means the department has been made more efficient. While some two millions of the public money have in two years been saved, England possesses a more powerful fleet than was ever before known—a much stronger force than France or the United States can send to sea. A new scheme of retirement has also been adopted, which will dispense with 2,336 superfluous officers at a present sacrifice, but at an eventual saving of 300,000*l.* The late First Lord was highly critical; but he did not convince the House that the retrenchments of the Admiralty were injudicious, nor that the country would gain by taking Mr. Corry back again.

The interest felt in the chief measures of the Session is for the moment transferred to outdoor action. The Irish Land Bill is being critically examined or cruelly denounced on the other side of St. George's Channel. Farmers' clubs are disappointed; the Fenian journals scornfully repudiate the boon; and the Irish members contemplate large amendments. Our columns testify to the strong opposition that is growing up against some of the provisions of the Government Education Bill, and to the resolution to propose amendments which will expunge its worst features.

Two valuable additions have been made during the week to the English Liberals in the House of Commons. The borough of Nottingham has recovered its reputation by returning, after a turbulent contest, the Hon. Auberon Herbert in preference to a nondescript politician, to succeed the late Conservative member. Sir John Lubbock has gained a comparatively easy triumph at Maidstone. Both these hon. gentlemen are men of mark, of capacity, and of special aptitudes. They are representative men, and will be able to give timely aid in the final settlement of the University Tests question.

Mr. Bernal Osborne has also been restored to the House he has so often enlivened, after a fearful conflict at Waterford—that city having been for several days at the mercy of a frantic and destructive mob, owing to the lack of firmness on the part of the local magistracy, though they were adequately supported by a strong force of police and soldiers. Much property has been destroyed, personal injuries inflicted, and life endangered at Waterford, without, however, securing the success of the Fenian candidate. The second Tipperary election, though resulting in the return of Mr. Heron, was no real triumph of Liberal opinions. His opponent, Mr. Kickham, the "Nationalist," was only defeated by a majority of four votes, and would probably have been returned if he had not discouraged his friends from going to the poll. Mr. Heron, who has accepted a considerable part of the Fenian creed, excited no enthusiasm. Fully one-half of the constituency remained neutral, and as a petition is to be presented, we may have a third Tipperary election within the year.

LAWLESSNESS IN IRELAND.

ONCE more we note a feverish impatience on the part of certain classes of British subjects under what they describe as the inertness of Her Majesty's Government in presence of the criminal activity of the "Nationalist" party in Ireland. We are not altogether surprised at what we observe. Unquestionably, the facts, reports of which find their way to this country, show a very considerable demoralisation of society in certain parts of the Sister Isle. Under the excitement of successive Parliamentary elections, the condition of first one county, and then another, especially in the south and south-west, has become most unsatisfactory. Within certain districts, life can hardly be said to be safe. Agrarian crimes, from one cause or another, either escape detection, or go unpunished. Justice is evaded or frustrated. A reign of terror prevails. The arm of the executive fails to reach even those who are notoriously guilty of heinous infractions of the law. That loyal subjects exposed to these evils should bitterly complain of any deficiency of protective power and precaution exhibited by the Irish Executive Government, is not to be wondered at; but the tone in which Her Majesty's Ministers are lectured, the exaggerated inferences drawn from the facts, and the eager demand which is made for a disregard, for the present at least, of those constitutional and legal safeguards which Englishmen have been wont to hold sacred, remind us very much of the excited and Draconic spirit which prevailed at the commencement of the Indian mutiny, for acting in re-

sistance to which, Lord Canning, although at subsequent period he was generally applauded, had to bear the outpourings of popular indignation and of middle-class contempt.

We so far sympathise with those who are exposed to unknown perils in consequence of the lawlessness of any portion of the population by which they are encompassed, as to wish that the public indications of watchfulness and decision on the part of Ministers in the protection of life and property in Ireland were more frequent and assuring than they have recently been. It would, perhaps, be speaking without knowledge, to affirm that suitable efforts have not been made by the authorities at Dublin Castle, to grapple with, and to put restraints upon, that disposition to insubordination and violence which unhappily has too clearly exhibited itself in districts of the sister country. They may, for aught we know, be operating beneath the surface of society, with some considerable and justifiable expectation of being able, within a little while, to quell the turbulent spirit of which these outbreaks are merely the external evidence. Still, they are bound to recognise the primary duty of all Governments to maintain order, and to protect those who are subject to their authority, as one of immediate as well as prospective force. Threatened men cannot wait contentedly until those who wield the physical force of the nation have made up their minds as to the best method by which, in the long run, disloyalty is to be subdued. The present must be thought of, even while the future is being wisely cared for. So much, we think, may be reasonably exacted from the Irish Executive, acting, as no doubt they do in the main, as the organ of the Imperial Government.

But we confess we are not prepared to urge her Majesty's Ministers to any hurried adoption of new, stringent, or desperate remedies. The disease with which they have to deal, it should be borne in mind, is both topical and temporary. The state of Ireland, regarded as a whole, is not one of exceptional lawlessness. Crime, other than agrarian, is less common in most parts of Ireland than in England. No doubt Fenianism has tainted to a lamentable extent the lower strata of Irish society. No doubt, moreover, that Irishmen under special excitement are peculiarly apt to resort to crimes of violence. But it is not fair to deal by penal legislation with an entire population on account of disorders committed by but an inconsiderable section of it. Nor would it be statesmanlike to regard as if normal a state of things which has been brought about by circumstances purely accidental. For instance, we should be sorry to sanction, or to become party to, any proceedings which would be practically grounded on such considerations as the following, transferred from the columns of a contemporary of a day or two since: "In a word, it is clear, and is daily becoming more so, that all the various contrivances and habits which our ancestors established for the safety of the community are, in the perverted state of popular sentiment in Ireland, turned to its detriment and danger; the provisions designed to secure the innocent against injustice only operate to secure the criminal from punishment; the end is ruthlessly sacrificed to an imbecile idolatry of means; the essence of justice is unattainable because we are superstitiously attached to its mere forms; the weapons of the citizen are wrested from his hands and turned against him by the malefactor; and the Government stands with open mouth, bewildered perplexity, and drooping, nerveless hands."

There can be little doubt as to what this means. Counsel seems to be urged upon her Majesty's Government to ask for the most despotic powers, and to employ them without stint. To set aside trial by jury, to disregard all legal forms, to act upon suspicion because testimony is to be treated as worthless, and to retain in confinement without bringing to trial those whom the police may denounce as associated with acts of criminality, or, to sum up all in one sentence, too familiar in the history of Ireland, to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act, is evidently the Executive policy for which our contemporary is calling aloud. We cannot go with him, except upon the authority of much stronger facts than any which have come under our notice during the last few months. The weapons of repression in the hands of the Lord Lieutenant may possibly require to be strengthened, in which case we hope Her Majesty's advisers would not shrink from making the necessary application to Parliament. But, surely, things have not yet come to that pass across the Channel, that establishes the necessity of taking so desperate a step as the suspension of all the usual legal guarantees of personal freedom. The lawlessness which is

clearly spasmodic in its character, and which has been stimulated into unusual activity, in part by anticipations of an impossible Land Bill, and in part by the excitement of contested elections, ought not to be treated as though it had become a permanently settled condition of the Irish community. We see no sufficient reason for hurrying the Government into the adoption of a severely repressive policy. We rejoice that they are in no mood to yield to the instigation of irresponsible advisers who have lost their patience, and who are not unaccustomed to be infected by the panics of their class. When Ministers ask for additional powers, we have no doubt they will lay before the public ample reasons for doing so. Until they ask for them, it may be pretty safely concluded that their trust in the ordinary powers of the law, is based upon a more accurate knowledge of the facts than can be obtained by the public at large.

THE SCANDAL OF THE WEEK.

It is a relief to all who value social morality that the nauseous Mordaunt case is at end. The allegation that the publication of such scandals in fulness of detail by the public press is a safeguard against fashionable vice, can hardly in this instance be justified. The reports which for so many days filled the daily papers have, we think, tended to produce more vicious results upon the community than the dissemination of the worst and most degrading poison contained in the literature of Holywell-street. The Divorce Court may be an inevitable institution, but the public press would be best consulting the dictates of propriety and morality by withholding, or restricting within the narrowest limits, the reports of such evidence as outrages the sense of decency, and familiarises its daily readers with social corruption in its most offensive forms. The morals of the nation must have sunk to a low ebb indeed, and fashionable society be more depraved than we are ready to believe, if publicity is the surest cure for such hideous scandals as the Mordaunt case has brought to light.

In the present instance, there is not even the satisfaction of believing that justice has been done. If Sir Charles Mordaunt has suffered a cruel wrong, he has obtained no redress. The plea of insanity so successfully raised has shut him out from redress, and established a very dangerous precedent. "Exactly the same principle," it has been justly said, "would preclude a creditor from recovering a debt, supposing his debtor to become insane after the debt had been incurred; and if this is the case, the law needs reforming." Beyond public exposure of alleged crimes—which may have been, according to the case for the defence, the phantasies of a diseased brain—no legal punishment has been inflicted, no reparation made, no facts established. The husband still suffers a terrible social wrong; the wife, if not guilty, is under a fearful stigma. Neither can be set right in the eye of the law without a reopening of the flood-gates which were closed on Friday last; whilst a number of persons of high social position, against whom shocking accusations have been levelled, have no remedy—if remedy they desire—however innocent they may be. "If the parties to the suit had been a Mr. and Mrs. A., and the co-respondents X., Y., and Z.," we believe with the *Daily News* "the case would have been argued on its own merits, and not have gone off upon a collateral and incidental issue." That this has not been done, is a public misfortune; for a miscarriage of justice in such a case is sure to be set down to motives which cast doubts upon its equitable administration.

Of course the chief, and indeed legitimate, interest in connection with this suit was in relation to the reputation of the Prince of Wales. The comparative harmlessness of his letters to Lady Mordaunt, and the frankness of his evidence on Wednesday, have created a favourable impression in his favour, and checked the voice of scandal and a too critical spirit. His Royal Highness has done all that was in his power to refute the charge brought against him. He has appealed to an indulgent public, and to that spirit of fair play which refuses to condemn a man before he has been proved to be guilty. We may be relieved by, though we see nothing to applaud, in the scene in the Divorce Court on Wednesday. If distrustful sentiments have been engendered by the past career of His Royal Highness, it is not because a young Prince is expected to be an anchorite, but because the Prince of Wales has shown so feeble an interest in the honourable pursuits that ennobled his illustrious father. If he is not cast in precisely the same mould as the late Prince Consort, and inclination does not lead him into the paths of statesman-

ship, the Prince of Wales must, in the natural course of things, become one of these days—distant may it be!—the social head of the State—an example for good or ill to the nation. It is impossible to shut out this consideration in connection with all the incidents of the career of the Heir Apparent. Those are the best friends of His Royal Highness who, avoiding alike flattery and detraction, faithfully tell him that the people of England will not consent to have the throne surrounded by an atmosphere of less purity and dignity than at present; and that genuine and reverential loyalty to the Sovereign, in the future generation as it has been in the past, must be based on that respect which comes of blamelessness of life and real personal desert.

THE OLLIVIER CABINET AND THE LEGISLATIVE BODY.

It is perhaps inevitable at the dawning anew of constitutional government in France that the first responsible Ministry of the Empire should have a great deal of fencing and hard conflict in a Chamber elected under the auspices of Personal rule, and that that assembly itself should for awhile occupy its time too much with exciting discussions, or doubtful "interpellations." Both the Ministers and the Legislature seem to have been for some time engaged in reconnaissances. M. Ollivier says that the Cabinet relies for support on "the majority"; M. Buffet, that it leans both on the Right and on the Left. The interesting debates of the last week have, however, made the situation somewhat clearer. Two tests were applied—one by the Left, and the other by the Right—both of which have had the effect of giving greater stability to the Ollivier Ministry and making it more evident than before that they do not seek to retain office by following in the footsteps of their predecessors, but that they are honestly desirous of being both a responsible and a reforming Administration.

The debate on the interpellation of M. Jules Favre was signalised by the bold and decisive speech of Count Daru, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which derived additional importance from being read to the Chamber as the authoritative programme of the entire Cabinet. The eloquent orator of the Left had striven to prove that the domestic policy of the Government was borrowed from the old régime, and that there was little hope of constitutional reform being carried by the agency of a Chamber consisting for the most part of Imperialist nominees. The speech of M. Pinard, late Minister of the Interior, did not strengthen the cause of the Government, but made it appear that M. Ollivier and his colleagues were indebted for their position to the support and forbearance of the Right. But Count Daru soon dissipated this illusion. There was, he said, a complete understanding between the members of the Government, and also between the Chamber and the present Ministers, who enjoyed the confidence of a Sovereign "now more than ever resolved to establish liberty." The Count asked for time to prepare reforms—for "free countries wish to be consulted, not surprised"—he distinctly promised a new electoral law, and he clearly intimated that the Right must accept the policy of the Government or go back to the country. His outspoken declarations were accepted as decisive, and by a vote almost unanimous the Chamber accepted the order of the day proposed by the Left Centre and the Right Centre, expressing implicit confidence in the good faith of the Ministry. The debate and division of Tuesday thus showed the Government to be independent of the Imperialist reactionaries.

The incidents of Thursday's sitting supplied a severer test of the Liberal professions of the Government, and further separated them from the "Mamelukes of the extreme Right." On the preceding day the Minister of the Interior had so indecisively objected to official candidates at elections that on Thursday the Government were taunted with divergence of opinion. Thereupon M. Ollivier rose and denied that there was any difference whatever. Both his colleague and himself meant that the Government, remaining faithful to their former declarations, will not have any official candidature, and will preserve the strictest neutrality at the elections. This declaration elicited loud cheers from the Left Centre and the Left, and a warning from M. Granier-Cassagnac, a leading member of the Right, that if such were the opinions of the Cabinet, he must refuse his confidence to Ministers. "If the populations were enlightened and there were no anti-dynastic parties, he could understand abstention, but where the existence of the Empire was at stake, he considered neutrality as desertion." The Keeper of the Seals, after this speech, only the more emphatically emphasised the decision of Ministers. He said:—"We are perfectly convinced that after the accomplish-

ment of the constitutional transformation the Government would have been placed in danger by following the electoral system previously pursued. Consequently, on taking office, we abandoned that course. (Loud applause on the Left and Centre.) We always believed that the Government, to triumph over its adversaries, had no need to employ the means claimed for it. We should be weakening in an irremediable manner the Government in the name of which we speak, if we presented to the country the afflicting spectacle of men who, having taken office in the name of certain ideas, disavowed or denied the principles which bore us into power. We shall not do so." These words of M. Ollivier, while applauded to the echo by the Liberal members—the most extreme as well as the moderate—struck dismay into the Conservative ranks. It was something more than an incident; it was an event in the modern history of France. The Right not only resolved for the first time to vote against the Government, but expected to beat them. M. Pinard himself came forward to propose an order of the day, to the effect that the Government should in certain cases interfere in elections. After half-an-hour of excitement and confusion, heightened by the rumour that the Keeper of the Seals had the writ of dissolution in his pocket, M. Ollivier asked the Chamber to vote the simple order of the day, which was carried by 138 out of 244 members. Thus as it has been remarked "the deputies of the old majority who had voted for the new Cabinet since its existence, went into Opposition, and the Irreconcilables who announced a week previous that they would never give their support to M. Ollivier, voted for Ministers." All the leaders of the Right—Cassagnac, Pinard, Forcade, Duvernois, and the rest—did their utmost to turn the tide, but the mere hint of a dissolution shattered the old majority, and their chiefs were left "in cold solitude."

The event of Friday is of first-rate importance in relation to the constitutional experiment which is now being made in France. The Ollivier Cabinet, timid and hesitating at first, has now broken its bridges burnt its boats, and beaten its foes in their first ambushade. It has taken stock of the resources of the obstructors of responsible Government, and has found them to be scanty. At one blow M. Ollivier has cut away that court influence to which they despairingly clung. The members of the Right can no longer hope to be re-elected as official candidates. They can only save themselves from political extinction by heartily accepting the Ministerial reforms. Napoleon III. could hardly venture, if so inclined, to thwart a Government which have grown in popular strength in proportion as they have trusted themselves to public opinion. But he is not so inclined. He has wisely identified himself with his popular Ministers. His Majesty is reported to have said, after the result of Friday's division was known, "We shall succeed; we have all the honest men of the country at our backs!" And, after all, what the Emperor loses in prerogative, he gains in good will to his dynasty. His advisers have shown him that the security of the Throne lies in real concessions to the will of the people, and that the existence of the Empire is quite compatible with genuine constitutional Government. M. Ollivier and his colleagues did not find it difficult to put down the physical-force revolution in the streets, but that they should so soon have won over the anti-dynastic Opposition, and have reconciled, if only for a time, the moderate Irreconcilables—the Left voting with them, in a body on Thursday last—is a triumph indeed!

The new Ministers demand time to prepare reforms. Their reasonable claim will now, we suppose, be conceded. Signally defeated at their first trial of strength, the official representatives will find it expedient to acquiesce in the Ministerial programme. They will thus prolong their political existence, and possibly improve the chances of their own re-election. But they cannot arrest the march of Liberalism. So long as the existing Chamber is engaged in passing reforms, the demand for a dissolution will be but feebly pressed. The honesty and thoroughness of the Cabinet are now above suspicion. It has already laid the foundation for a "peaceful revolution," which, as M. Jules Favre is candid enough to admit, "is worth more than liberty achieved amid the storms of conflict." The reforms already projected include the abrogation of the law of general safety, an electoral law, a more liberal scheme for the election of mayors, a popular municipal council for Paris, the organisation of the departments, a curtailment of the political powers of the prefects, the abolition of cumulative pay, a reduction of armaments, a new press bill, and the removal of restrictions on the right of association. Above all, the Government have appointed a commission, with M. Odillon-Barrot at its head, to

investigate the whole question of centralisation, with a view to devise a scheme for restoring local government and responsibility, and another commission to inquire into the subject of superior education. However reluctant the present Chamber of Government nominees may be to accept these liberal measures, they can as little thwart the Government, unless the Sovereign visibly supports them, as they were able to defeat M. Ollivier on Friday last, on so vital a question as that of official candidates. The Cabinet will know how to checkmate their opposition. The mere threat of a dissolution will suffice. If these reforms are carried, and a new electoral law and new safeguards for electoral purity are accepted, the French Ministry may then appeal to the country, with entire confidence in a verdict favourable to the continuance of the Empire, in conjunction with responsible Government and Liberal institutions.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION AND TRADES UNIONS.

THERE now exists a hope that we have at last approached a period when our attempts at legislation in connection with trades unions will be based upon something like equitable principles, rather than upon the fears and prejudices which have too often inspired Parliamentary action in matters affecting the existing relations of labour and capital. The past history of the laws relating to industrial combinations is almost as painful and full of gross anomalies as was that of the legislation adopted by our ancestors in relation to the alleged practice of witchcraft. Nothing short of merciless and absolute repression would satisfy our olden law-makers. The trades unions were to be rooted out by wholesale, and their members persecuted without mercy. Nobody seemed inclined to investigate the causes which led to the formation of these remarkable organisations; their mere existence was deemed an unpardonable offence against the statutes of the land, even though the members took every care to keep within the bounds of the law, both in words and action. Labour was always wrong; capital was always right. Employers, like kings, could never err; but the employed were too ignorant, too deficient in their knowledge of the elements of political economy, to have the best of the argument. Political economy was always against them, and capitalists rejoiced in the fact. No wonder that labour was continually dissatisfied.

But when the free-trade struggle commenced, when the voices of Richard Cobden and John Bright began to be heard on behalf of cheap bread, it was more than once found that the working classes were not alone in their defective knowledge of the laws of economic science; that capital was frequently no less prejudiced, wrong-headed, and liable to error, than was labour. Moreover, experience had shown that however foolish and short-sighted were many of the strikes resorted to by the labourers in different parts of the country, they were indirectly the result of long existing abuses, which legislation had neither the power nor the will to remedy. The social condition of the artisan a few years back was very different to what it is now, when social reform has become a vital part of the national creed. He was treated as a child. If he entertained erroneous notions, he was not reasoned out of them. Punishment, not argument, was his destiny. To this we owe some of the darkest chapters in the history of trades-unionism. We made the trades-unionist occupy a position analogous to that of the fierce and untamed child of the desert, whose hand was against every man, and the hand of every man against him. What could we expect but the long, terribly long, list of trade outrages and atrocities which stain our industrial annals. To a considerable extent, our trades unionists are what the law has made them.

With the gradual reform of the Combination Laws, and the acknowledgment of the doctrine that, subject to certain restrictions, workmen have a right to combine for certain purposes, such as to procure a higher rate of wages, the policy of the trades unions has undergone a marked change. There is less disposition to resort to intimidation and violence, and more susceptibility with respect to the tendency of public opinion. This change is most observable in those unions where the members belong to the better-educated class of artisans, and least in those organisations where the standard of education is miserably low. The true remedy for trades' union excesses is not coercion, but education, combined with more equitable legislation. This, however, is a fact which our predecessors declined to perceive, until it was forced upon their acceptance. Now, after long years of hesitating delay, we seem disposed to make up for all previous shortcomings, and, recognising the circumstance of trades' unions having become, for good or for evil, an es-

sentia feature in the industrial sphere, strive to develop their better and more useful qualities.

A remarkable instance of this change in public feeling is afforded by the publication of the resolutions just adopted by a committee of the Social Science Association. These resolutions breathe a spirit far more genial and amicable than that which inspired past legislation on the subject, and unmistakably indicate the course to be pursued by Parliament in its dealings with the vexed questions relating to capital and labour. The committee explicitly declare their opinion that the right principle of legislation in all matters relating to trades unions is one of complete neutrality; neither subjecting such associations to special disabilities (such as withholding redress for embezzlement of their funds), nor granting them special privileges.

They also assert that both masters and workmen ought to be allowed to combine for the purpose of settling on what terms they will consent to employ or be employed; and, generally, that, so long as the objects in view were not criminal, all persons, of every class, should be free to unite; and to do so not only in separate bodies, but in confederation. At the same time, they insist that while themselves free, trades unions and all similar associations should, like individuals, be compelled, in turn, to respect the freedom of others; and that when this freedom is violated, certain, swift, and adequate punishment should be inflicted, so as to prevent any repetition thereof.

It would be difficult for either the capitalist or the labourer to find fault with these resolutions; but the committee go further still, and attempt to grapple with a more difficult portion of the labour question, that which has most largely perplexed our legislators; namely, the extent to which trades-unionists may go in attempting to influence those amongst their fellow workmen who may entertain non-unionist views. In a somewhat lengthy resolution they maintain the doctrine that, while they hold that all attempts to force up wages beyond the market rate, or to prevent the use of machinery, or to exclude piece-work, or to limit the number of apprentices, or to exclude female labour, are not only contrary to justice, but arise from ignorance of economic science and from a wrong view of the interests of those who make them, they are of opinion that, so long as such attempts are confined to argument and persuasion, or even to a refusal to work with those whom it is tried to influence, they should not be forbidden by law; but that when threats of molestation are employed, and, still more, actual violence, the law should instantly afford its protection to the sufferers and punish the offenders.

This last resolution is likely to be viewed with much disfavour by the more prejudiced and selfish class of employers, even as their counterparts among the employed are likely to energetically protest against that particular resolution in which the committee express their opinion that the many instances in which terror and maltreatment have been used, in attempts to coerce not only employers but fellow-workpeople—and the latter, indeed, in an especial degree, as, for example, in the late lamentably disgraceful riots near Sheffield—show that the present means of preventing such outrages are lamentably insufficient; and that as respects either the criminal law or its administration, or both, there are great defects. It is doubtful also whether the committee will gain the acquiescence of trades-unionists of the Broadhead class in such sentiments; much less those which animate the resolution informing us that whenever it can be shown, to the satisfaction of a jury, that any one has been wronged, in either his person, earnings, or property, through the instrumentality of a trades union or of any other association, the funds of such association should be liable for indemnification; and that, in all cases, the means of obtaining redress should be ready and inexpensive. Yet it must not be forgotten that these resolutions are based on the principle of both parties making concessions. Hitherto the men have invariably stood at a disadvantage, at any rate for all practical purposes, when engaged in a dispute with their employers. The adoption of the resolutions published by the Social Science Association would place the rival elements on a more equal footing, and thus prepare the way for a more extensive application of the arbitration principle.

This latter result appears to have been foreseen, for the committee inform us that they heartily agree with the Trades Union Commissioners in the great value they attach to Boards of Conciliation, as organised by Mr. Mundella, and that in their opinion it is essential, for the good working of these Boards, that they should be what their name implies, and not be armed with legal powers. This latter

conclusion is, however, likely to be warmly impugned: the general impression, so far as the working classes are concerned, being that the proposed Boards of Conciliation would be useless unless invested with legal powers. Should the Government Bill embody the recommendations of the Social Science Committee, the capitalists will, in self-defence, be compelled to assist the progress of the education movement, especially with respect to technical and economic instruction. In no other manner can they hope to prevent the labourers from committing the mistakes arising from a defective knowledge of the principles which govern the relations of capital and labour. But what a change this will prove. The schoolmaster instead of the gaoler the schoolroom instead of the prison! What an utter falsification of the predictions of those who, forty years ago, professed to see in a milder system of Combination Laws, the destruction of our industrial interests. But the lesson is an instructive one, and we may find the teachings applicable in other matters than those relating to trades-unionism.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

At Wednesday's sitting of the Legislative Body there was a discussion relative to official candidates. M. Chevandier de Valdrome, the Minister of the Interior, declared that Parliamentary Government implied the discontinuance of official candidates, but that the Government nevertheless did not intend to renounce the right of making manifest who were its friends, and who were its enemies. M. Grevy maintained that there was no difference between official candidates and candidates recommended by the Government, and he contested the right of the latter to interfere at all in the elections. M. Emile Ollivier then rose and said that the Government would practise absolute neutrality, but would make known its hopes, adding that one would despair of universal suffrage if that should prove sufficient to pervert it.

On Thursday the subject was renewed. Ernest Picard laid on the table a proposal forbidding any candidate to be in any way favoured by the Government, and preventing the communal agents from distributing a candidate's voting papers. The Chamber then resumed the discussion on the interpellation relative to official candidates, when M. Arago refuted the allegations brought forward by M. Dugué de la Fauconnerie against his administration at Lyons in 1848. M. Granier de Cassagnac said that in consequence of the declarations made yesterday by the Minister of the Interior, which, he felt convinced, expressed the real intentions of the Government, he renounced the right of addressing the House on the subject. M. Emile Ollivier thereupon rose and said:—"Allow me; there must be no misunderstanding. I cannot separate my statements from those of M. Chevandier de Valdrome; they both signify that the Government, remaining faithful to its former declarations, will not have any official candidates, and will preserve the strictest neutrality at the elections." This announcement was received with loud cheers even from the Left benches. M. Martel said that after such precise statements from the Government, he proposed that the Chamber should pass to the order of the day pure and simple. M. Cassagnac expressed regret at the declaration just fallen from M. Ollivier, and maintained that the Government had a right to interfere in the elections. M. Ollivier then ascended the tribune to reply to M. Granier de Cassagnac, and said:—

When we accepted the responsibility of power we also accepted the duty of its defence—a task, however, which we have only undertaken to perform by dignified and efficacious means. We do not intend to return to the errors of an electoral system which is now a thing of the past. (Cheers, especially from the Left benches.) The Government being based upon the majority of the Chamber, needs no such artificial support as that which has been claimed on its behalf. M. Granier de Cassagnac cited the case of M. Casimir Perrier, who was an advocate of Government interference at elections. But there is an essential difference between the present Cabinet and that of M. Casimir Perrier. When that gentleman took office the country was in the mature possession of complete liberty. When we were called upon to form a Government it was at a period succeeding a time of too great a concentration of power. We should be justly held up to contempt if, while satisfying the demands of the Liberal party, we were not at the same time to insure the preservation of order. We shall not abandon those who have supported the reigning power for eighteen years; but we do not intend to separate ourselves from the principles of our past conduct. If the Sovereign has honoured us with his confidence it has been because we represented a certain number of ideas; we should weaken the governing power if by our acts we effaced them.

This speech was received with cheers, especially from the Left and Left Centre. Many members on the Right benches remained silent. The sitting was suspended, and great excitement prevailed. The Deputies assembled in several groups discussing the Ministerial declaration, and there was a general belief that its results would be of a very important character. On the resumption of the sitting, M. Pinard, on behalf of the Right, declared that after M. Ollivier's statement, it was impossible to support the Cabinet. He therefore brought forward an

order of the day couched in terms expressive of the views of M. de Cassagnac. M. Thiers announced that he should oppose this order of the day, and reminded the House that since 1863 he had preserved a dynastic attitude while urging that the necessary liberty should be granted to the country. M. Ollivier said that the Cabinet would only accept an order of the day pure and simple, which was afterwards carried by 188 votes against 56, the Left voting with the Government. The sitting closed amid great excitement.

The *Daily News* correspondent says it is reported in many quarters that M. Ollivier had a decree for a dissolution ready in his pocket in case the extreme Right defeated him on Thursday, as they expected. Count Daru has received a very flattering letter from the Emperor, approving the speech he delivered the other day in the Chamber.

At Friday's sitting of the Chamber M. Kératry announced that, in consequence of the courageous policy of the Government, he would withdraw his motion on the subject of religious corporations, and await the introduction of a bill on the right of association. The declaration was received with cheers.

Don Carlos, travelling with an Austrian passport, arrived at Lyons on Wednesday. He was met by the Duke of Modena, who had just come from Rome, from whom he received a considerable amount of money to further a revolution in Spain. The authorities informed him that it was the wish of the French Government that he should reside in some town in the North of France should he not prefer going to some foreign country. Don Carlos preferred the latter, and was conducted to the Swiss frontier.

The *Mémorial Diplomatique* declares that the papers seized at the houses of the persons arrested in Paris during the recent riots, reveal an extensive conspiracy, including nearly all the Continent, and affecting more particularly Italy, Austria, and Hungary.

On the 1st of March a new Radical journal, *Le Signal*, is to appear in Paris. The principal contributors will be MM. Felix Pyat, Louis Blanc, Barbès, and even M. Rochefort, who, it is said, will abandon the *Marseillaise*.

The *Soir* confirms the report already published that the Council of State has reduced by 10,000 or 15,000 men the annual army contingent of 1871, originally fixed at 100,000 men.

The Committee appointed to report on High-class Education has been nominated. M. Guizot will act as President whenever the Minister of Education should be absent. Among the members of the Committee are the Duke de Broglie and M. Remusat.

GERMANY.

An important debate took place on Thursday in the North German Parliament on a resolution brought forward by the National Liberal party in favour of the speedy entry of Baden into the North German Bund. In the course of the discussion, Count Bismarck said the entry of Baden into the Confederation was not desirable at present, as such an event would impede the natural progress of the South German States. At the same time he said that the North German Confederation would reserve to itself the right of designating a more favourable moment for the reception of Baden as one of its members.

The statement that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs had demanded from the Prussian Government an explanation of some allusions in the King's Speech from the Throne, and that he had received a reply, is announced by a Berlin semi-official journal to be entirely fictitious.

SPAIN.

A motion of the Spanish Government to authorise a judiciary prosecution against the Archbishop of Santiago, in consequence of the terms of his reply to a Ministerial circular, was discussed in the Cortes on Wednesday. No decision apparently was arrived at.

The Regent has received a delegation of workmen out of employ, who asked for a formal promise that their distress should receive immediate consideration.

AMERICA.

The American telegrams state that Mr. Revels, the coloured Senator from Mississippi, has been admitted to the Senate by a strict party vote of forty-eight to eight. He took his seat on Friday evening, and a large audience was present to witness the admission of the first negro who ever sat in Congress. Mr. Revels (as we have already stated) succeeds Mr. Jefferson Davis in the Senate.

President Grant has signed the bill which admits the delegation of the State of Mississippi to seats in the House of Representatives.

The two branches of the United States Congress have come into collision on the question of currency. The House recently passed a resolution to increase the currency (greenbacks) 50,000,000 dols. The Senate has passed a resolution declaring that the present amount of currency ought not to be increased. Under the circumstances it is probable there will be no change in the currency at present.

President Grant has made an important declaration with regard to American finance. He has instructed Mr. Dawes, chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, by whom the declaration has been reported to a New Hampshire audience, to state that what had been done by the Administration to effect an honest collection and economical expenditure of the revenue was only an earnest of what the Government intended to do.

Every dollar of superfluous expenditure would be cut off. This declaration has been well received. Taken in connection with the decision of the Supreme Court that the Legal Tender Act is not retrospective, and with the rejection by the Senate of the bill to expand the currency, it has produced a general expectation that a return to specie payments is not far off, and has exerted a corresponding influence on the gold market.

Two of the carpet-bag Congressmen have just resigned their seats to avoid expulsion from the House, in consequence of a discovery that they had sold cadetship warrants for West Point Academy. The Committee believe that they have evidence criminalizing six or seven other members. All these, with one exception, are from reconstructed States.

Last year the New York Legislature granted assistance to sectarian schools under certain conditions. A great agitation is springing up to have this assistance withdrawn, and petitions are pouring in from all parts of the State calling upon the Legislature to act promptly.

THE CANADIAN DOMINION.

The Canadian Parliament, after four nights' discussion, unanimously agreed, on Wednesday, to the address in reply to the opening speech of the Governor. The debate turned chiefly on a criticism of the Government policy in relation to the Red River troubles, the appointment of Sir Francis Hincks as Minister of Finance, and the alleged breach of faith towards the Reform party, which involved the recent Ministerial changes. Prince Arthur was frequently present during the debate.

A grand ball in honour of Prince Arthur was given by the members of the Provincial Parliament in the Senate Chamber at Toronto on Friday evening. Guests were present from all parts of the country, including the Governor-General and Lieutenant-Governors of the different provinces; the assembly altogether (the telegram says) was brilliant, and the ball passed off most successfully.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

An American paper stated that Juarez, the President of Mexico, is coming to Europe with his family. The Italian deficit for 1870, according to an article in Saturday's *Opinion*, is 161,332,000 lire.

Important military reductions in India are said to have been ordered by the Home Government.

Barbara Ubryk, the lately imprisoned nun of Oracow, died in that city on the 24th.

An interview will take place at Vienna, after Easter, between the Emperor of Austria and the King of Italy.

The death of the Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons has been announced. He died at Lyons, being too old and ill to go to Rome.

The supplementary convention to the Anglo-Austrian Treaty of Commerce has been signed by the Emperor Francis Joseph.

WOMEN SUFFRAGE IN AMERICA.—The Mormon Legislature has passed a bill giving the electoral franchise to the women of the territory, and the Act, having been signed by the Governor, has become law. In another territory of the United States, Wyoming, women suffrage had already been established.

FRENCH MARITIME CANAL.—The project for the construction of a maritime canal between Bordeaux and the Mediterranean is apparently gaining ground. It is calculated that six years will be required for its formation. The scheme is warmly supported by M. Jules Simon, the Deputy for Bordeaux, and a petition in its favour has just been laid before the Senate.

RELAPSING FEVER IN AMERICA.—New York is visited with relapsing fever. In the papers of the 11th of February Dr. Harris, the sanitary superintendent, publishes a list of 166 cases, verified by medical officers of the Board of Health. The disease is supposed to have been in the city for weeks before its nature was suspected.

THE "HOLY PLACES."—The Princess de la Tour d'Auvergne, who has obtained a grant from the Sultan of the piece of ground whereon Christ is said to have taught the Lord's Prayer, is personally superintending the erection of a temple on the spot, which will contain the prayer in every language. She is quite an enthusiast, and works among the stones with her own hands, and has already spent over 50,000 dollars in carrying out her project.

TERRIBLE COLLISION AT SEA—LOSS OF 120 LIVES.—A shocking calamity has occurred about fifteen miles from Yokohama, Japan. The United States war steamer *Onesida* was run into during a fog by the British steamer *Bombay*, belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental Company, and sunk. One hundred and twenty lives are said to have been lost. The *Bombay* was not much injured, and it does not appear that any of her crew or passengers were drowned. The date of the collision is not given.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.—A despatch from Bombay informs us that the Duke of Edinburgh, after visiting Lahore, Umritsir, and other places, reached Lucknow on the 17th inst. His Royal Highness will meet the Viceroy at Jubbulpore on the 7th of March, and will arrive in Bombay on the 11th. Preparations on a large scale are being made for his reception, and the whole city will be illuminated. 4,000l. has already been subscribed. Numerous native princes, including the Guicowar of Baroda, intend visiting Bombay on that occasion. Fifteen notes for 100l. each, belonging to the Duke, are reported to have been stolen from his camp.

DEATH OF THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR.—Mr. Anson Burlingame, the Chinese envoy, has just died suddenly at St. Petersburg. He was an American, and

received his appointment from the Chinese Government in 1868, and since that date has been officially visiting the various courts of Europe with the members of the Embassy, in order to establish more direct diplomatic relations between China and the Western Powers. The funeral took place on Saturday, and the ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and the United States were among the pallbearers. Upon the coffin the name of the deceased was the only inscription. The remains are ultimately to be sent to America.

GREAT BANK CRASH AT NAPLES.—A number of speculators who dealt with the funds they received no one knows how, had lured the Neapolitans in the capital of the province and the country about, to deposit their little fortunes under promise of an enormous rate of interest, which, it was said, could not be realised if the mode of conducting the business were known. The "banking" system was successful for a time, despite the condemnation of the Neapolitan Chamber of Commerce, the Bank of Naples, the press, and the Government. The sheep were willing to be shorn, and shorn they were until the crash came. A number of the agents in the affair have been apprehended, and the police have laid their hands on assets to the amount of about 160,000l., which is to set against investments variously represented as from 1,000,000l. to 5,000,000l. The ruin which is likely to follow the collapse of these wild speculations will be wide-spread.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

NOTTINGHAM.—This election on Wednesday resulted in the return of the Liberal candidate. At the close of the poll the numbers were:—

The Hon. Auberon Herbert.... 4,971
Mr. Digby Seymour 4,675

Majority for Herbert 266

There was, as usual, great uproar and disturbance on the polling day. Thirty persons were captured by the police in the afternoon. Some of them were severely injured about the head and face, the police having used their batons freely. Some of the police also were wounded by the large boulders thrown at them by the mob. None of the injuries, however, are of a dangerous character. There was an immense assemblage in the Market-place at the declaration on Thursday. The Hon. Auberon Herbert, who was received with great cheering, said he could hardly realise his position as member for Nottingham. He heartily thanked his friends for their energetic efforts in securing his return. The organisation of the Liberal party had been perfect; many of the party who disagreed with him on some matters had sunk them and voted for him. (Loud cheers.) Alluding to the short time which had elapsed since he first presented himself as a candidate, he would say,—

Happy is the wooing
That is not long a-doing.

In his case true love had run smoothly, and he earnestly hoped that this love at first sight would prove stronger at second sight. (Laughter and cheers.) With him it would last as long as he lived. (Loud applause.) The Sheriff, in reply to the usual vote of thanks, repudiated the allegation of unfairness in his decision as to the show of hands. Mr. Seymour did not appear upon the hustings at the declaration, but harangued the crowd from his carriage, alleging that his defeat was due to illegal practices. There was, he said, luck in odd numbers, and, though defeated twice, he would offer himself when a vacancy again occurred, in the hope that the decision of that day would be reversed. As is usually the case at Nottingham, a petition is threatened.

MAIDSTONE.—The contest between Sir John Lubbock (L.) and Mr. Foster White (C.) on Friday, resulted in the return of the former, the numbers being—

Lubbock 1,504
White 1,402

showing a majority of 102 for the Liberal candidate. In returning thanks at the declaration, Sir John said although the contest had been at first somewhat close, he never doubted the issue; but he must admit that his opponents had fought a bold battle, and it was a great satisfaction to have beaten them. The Conservatives had fought well up to the last moment. Mr. Foster White did not appear on the hustings, but addressed the electors from the balcony of the Star Hotel, and said he had been defeated, but not disgraced.

WATERFORD.—**TERRIBLE RIOTS.**—The contest in this turbulent city was between Mr. Bernal Osborne and Mr. Smyth, of the *Irishman*, the "Nationalist" candidate. The nomination was a scene of uproar and violence. On Thursday the polling took place. Mobs, the members of which carried sticks, and were in favour of Mr. Smyth, the Nationalist candidate, surrounded the various polling-booths; the voters were yelled at as they passed in to vote, and several who had given their support to Mr. Bernal Osborne had their windows smashed. The result was as follows:—

Osborne 483
Smyth 475

A majority of eight for Mr. Osborne. At the declaration on Friday Mr. Osborne did not venture to appear. The rejected candidate, Mr. Smyth, complained of intimidation, and threatened to petition against the return of Mr. Osborne on the ground of bribery. The mob was violent, and Mr. Blake, ex-M.P., had to flee for safety. The Roman Catholic Bishop issued a proclamation, asking his fellow-religionists to assist in preserving peace. There are very

long accounts of the awful scenes of violence in connection with this election. The facts are condensed in the letter of "A Traveller":—"The day of polling was as usual at an Irish election; voters escorted to the poll by dragoons; politicians obnoxious to the national party stoned and beaten in the public streets. I was drinking tea in the travellers' room of this hotel at about eight o'clock last night when an avalanche of paving-stones shattered the entire front of the windows, and the roar of an enormous mob announced that the town was at their mercy. The hotel was attacked, and an omnibus propelled against the entrance-door, with the view of breaking it in. Some shots were fired through the shutters into the hall. During a period of two hours not a policeman or a soldier appeared. The inmates of this hotel barricaded the hall door with mattresses, and with such arms as could be procured on the instant, stood ranged on the staircase prepared to sell their lives dearly. After a most anxious interval, a force of police arrived, but no magistrate could be found, and, tell it not in England, the police actually looked on, almost 'standing at ease,' while houses were wrecked and stores set on fire. Neither a soldier nor a magistrate came to the spot, and the town through the night was left in the hands of a mob more resembling a horde of Cherokee Indians than Christian men. Several stores were set on fire; the market-house on the quay was burnt; the chapel of the Dominican Friars completely wrecked, and the houses of all the principal supporters of Mr. Osborne attacked and wrecked; one in particular, belonging to a Mr. Courtenay, was broken into and gutted, the furniture broken up and thrown into the road, the mob dancing on the piano before destroying it. Mr. Courtenay was from home. His wife behaved with great heroism, and was left unhurt." The violence was continued on Saturday. At night the mob reassembled, and about three o'clock on Sunday morning proceeded to break more windows. A cottage near Dungarvan, the residence of Mr. Galway, who took an active part in Mr. Osborne's favour, was burnt to the ground.

NORWICH.—It is understood that no new writ will be issued for this city until a short Act of Parliament has been passed disfranchising such persons as may be reported by the Norwich Election Commissioners to have been guilty of corrupt practices at recent elections. Sir R. J. Harvey, however, has definitely and finally announced his intention not to contest Norwich in the Liberal-Conservative interest. Meanwhile it is quite understood that Sir W. Russell is about to terminate his connection with the constituency, and that as there will be two vacancies, Mr. J. H. Tillett will certainly be one of the candidates, representing the more advanced Liberal element of the constituency. The local Conservative leader (Sir S. Bignold) has intimated to his friends that a "distinguished diplomatist" may possibly come forward.

BRISTOL.—Mr. Grantley Berkeley, the senior member for this city, is seriously ill. In the event of a vacancy, Mr. E. S. Robinson, formerly mayor, will come forward in the Liberal interest. Mr. Kirkman Hodgson, the candidate selected by a committee of the Liberal Registration Association, arrived at Bristol on Monday afternoon. It is announced that Mr. Robinson is willing to submit to the preliminary test ballot, so as to prevent a division of the Liberal party. A meeting of working men was held on Monday night, which pledged itself to support Mr. Odger if he became a candidate.

MALLOW.—A petition has been lodged against Mr. Munster's return for Mallow, on the ground of bribery and intimidation. Major Knox claims the seat.

TIPPERARY.—**DEFEAT OF THE FENIAN CANDIDATE.**—At the nomination on Wednesday, another election being required by the O'Donovan Rossa business, the Fenian element again made itself prominent. Mr. Heron, Q.C., who was defeated on the late occasion, was again nominated, and Mr. Kickham, a released Fenian prisoner, was put up in opposition. His friends made a great noise, and of course carried the show of hands. The scene on the hustings at Clonmel was quite different from that presented on the occasion of the first contest. Every one seemed terribly in earnest, and amid the turbulence and noise the grim resolution of the combatants was strikingly apparent. The sentiments of the Nationalists were brought out in a speech of Mr. O'Connor, who seconded Kickham. He spoke of Heron with scrupulous respect, admitted that under other circumstances the constituency would gladly accept him, but they were resolved to have nothing to do with any nominee or supporter of Mr. Gladstone. The true issue between the Government and the National party was clearly put. They did not want land bills, or denominational education, or grand jury reform, or any of the other planks of the Constitutional platform. They despised these demands, every one of which implied supplication of the English Parliament and an admission of its authority. Their ultimatum was a release of the Fenian prisoners, not as a favour, but as a right—not because the state of the country rendered an amnesty innocuous (for they well know that such is not the fact), but because England had no right to hold patriotic Irishmen in durance. England, according to the Nationalist programme, is to relinquish the prisoners as a prelude to relinquishing its dominion over Ireland. The priests, who mustered in large numbers on the hustings, were openly and freely warned to look to the consequences of supporting the "Castle hack." But the priests are also many of them Tipperary men, and unite the dogged, desperate spirit of the county to the strong *esprit du corps* of their order. The polling took place on Saturday. At Clonmel at noon the votes recorded for Mr. Heron numbered 101, while Kickham had

received forty-four. Seventy voters from Ardinnan, headed by priests, who were going to vote for Mr. Heron, were attacked and dispersed by a mob who were in favour of Kickham's candidature. At Thurles at noon the numbers were—for Mr. Heron, 224; for Kickham, 122. Those who voted for Mr. Heron were accompanied by priests, and were stoned by the mob. The military and police interfered, and a conflict took place. At the close of the poll the numbers were as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| For Mr. Heron..... | 1,668 |
| For Mr. Kickham..... | 1,664 |

Majority for Mr. Heron .. 4

There was great excitement throughout the county, but the rioting did not reach the pitch it attained in Waterford. In Clonmel, at a Kickham bonfire, a mob marched in military manner to the order of a leader, who cried "Steady, boys, left and right," smashed the windows, and committed other excesses, but some of the ringleaders having been arrested, its violence was checked. The most inflammatory placards were posted in Thurles, in reply to Mr. Heron's bills, which were in the richest green. "On to the poll for Charles Kickham! Kick out the Saxon nominee! Send Heron back to his employer Gladstone, who has dared to flog the immortal Rossa!"—this was the legend of one; another expected the voters to "Send Heron to the Castle"; "Kickham, Faith, and Fatherland," was a frequent inscription. Crowds went about canvassing, singing seditious songs. The publicans in the town of Tipperary prevented much mischief by agreeing to close their shops. The Conservative county journal, the *Chronicle*, states that "the landlords held aloof, exercising no influence in favour of either candidate." The greatest excitement, as was expected, prevailed at Thurles, where several of Mr. Heron's voters were beaten and seriously injured. As for Rossa, so for Kickham, the principal votes were in the Tipperary district—the hotbed of Fenianism. There was great stone-throwing in the afternoon at Thurles, and the police charged with fixed bayonets, to disperse the Kickham mob. At an early hour of the afternoon bonfires were lighted at considerable distances from the Tipperary towns, in the county Limerick, and the county Waterford, in rejoicing for the return of Kickham. The Nationalists were so assured of the return of the "poet-patriot" Kickham, that they spent Saturday night in Dublin in public-houses merry-making over their victory. It is a remarkable fact that little more than one-third of the constituency polled. The *Morning Mail* calls attention to the fact that only 3,343 voters in all polled out of a constituency of 8,996, as showing either that the tenant-farmers were generally apathetic, or were prevented, by one party or the other, from reaching the poll. The Hon. Charles White polled 3,419 in 1866, and Mr. Waldron 2,685. At the declaration of the poll neither candidate appeared, Mr. Heron having left for Dublin, attended by armed police.

THE MORDAUNT DIVORCE CASE.

At the opening of the Divorce Court on Wednesday, the evidence of the petitioner, intended technically to rebut the allegation of incapability on the part of the respondent from insanity, was resumed. The witnesses called were Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Murray, Florence Stephens, the cook at Walton Hall, Mr. Orford and Mr. Jones, surgeons, and Dr. Tyler Smith. The medical testimony went to show that whatever may have been the state of Lady Mordaunt's health when the citation was served upon her, she was not at present in her right mind. This brought the case for the petitioner to a close.

Dr. Deane (counsel for Sir T. Moncreiffe, the guardian *ad litem* of Lady Mordaunt) then rose and said that, as the name of the Prince of Wales had been mentioned, he thought it his duty, having regard to the position of his Royal Highness, to call him as a witness.

The Prince of Wales then entered and took his place in the witness-box. Every one in court remained seated; nor was there, indeed, any difference between the treatment accorded to his Royal Highness and that extended to any other witness, other than that the Testament was opened, and the Prince was allowed to press the inside of the volume instead of the board to his lips in taking the oath.

Lord Penzance reminded the Prince that he was not bound or required by law to submit to any interrogations on that subject.

His Royal Highness (without noticing this formal caution) was then examined by Mr. Deane as follows:—

I believe your Royal Highness has for some time been acquainted with the Moncreiffe family?—I have. Were you acquainted with Lady Mordaunt before her marriage?—I was. On her marriage did your Royal Highness write to her and make her some wedding present?—I did. Previous to her marriage had she visited at Marlborough House when your Royal Highness and the Princess of Wales were there?—She had. And has she gone to the theatre with both your Royal Highnesses?—She has. We are told that she was married at the end of 1866. In 1867 did you see much of her?—I did. And in the year 1868?—I did also. Were you acquainted with Sir Charles Mordaunt?—I was. Have you frequently met him?—I have. And with Lady Mordaunt?—With Lady Mordaunt. Your Royal Highness knows Hurlingham?—I do. Have you been in the habit of meeting Sir Charles there?—I have. On one occasion, I think in June, 1868, there was a pigeon match there between Warwickshire and Norfolk?—There was. I believe

your Royal Highness and Sir Charles were captains for each county?—I believe so. Was Lady Mordaunt there?—She was. With her husband?—With her husband. Does your Royal Highness remember the date?—I think it was about June. Did Lady Mordaunt score for one side?—For both sides, I think. And in the course of that match did you speak to Lady Mordaunt at times when Sir Charles was by?—I believe so. We have heard in the course of this case that your Royal Highness uses Hansom cabs occasionally. I do not know whether it is so?—It is so. Dr. Deane: I have only one more question to trouble your Royal Highness with. Has there ever been any improper familiarity or criminal act between yourself and Lady Mordaunt? His Royal Highness (in a very firm tone): There has not. [There was here a burst of applause, which was at once repressed.] Mr. Serjeant Ballantine: I have no question to ask his Royal Highness.

The Prince then bowed to his Lordship and retired, amid another attempt at applause, which was, as before, promptly repressed.

Sir F. Johnstone also gave testimony in denial of the allegations against him, after which allusions were made to the publication of the Prince of Wales' letters. The letters were read, and the court adjourned.

Thursday was taken up with the speeches of counsel on either side. Mr. Serjeant Ballantine (for the petitioner) went over the evidence favourable to the petitioner, and admitted that the Prince of Wales had freed himself from the imputations cast upon him. Dr. Deane replied, after which the Court was adjourned.

On Friday the counsel on both sides agreed that the issue to be put to the jury should be, "Was Lady Mordaunt fit and able to instruct her attorney on the 30th of April, and has she since become unfit, and when?"

Lord Penzance, in the course of an elaborate summing up, which lasted three hours and a half, reviewed the whole of the voluminous evidence which had been given. He referred to the publicity given to the case, and doubted if it had not been for the best, as the cause had been on the tapis for nearly a year, and there were many rumours about it. If Lady Mordaunt in one, two, or any number of years, became sane, her husband would have a perfect right to call her to account for what she had done. It was even a disputed point now, whether Sir Charles, even if his wife were mad, had not right to sue for a divorce. His lordship referred to certain things as gravely suspicious against Lord Cole. The case against Captain Farquhar was not so strong. As to the case against the Prince of Wales, there was nothing in the nature of the evidence to implicate him. His lordship went on to refer to the confessions of Lady Mordaunt, and showed that if the evidence of the witnesses on that point had not been relied on by the other side, Lady Moncreiffe would have been called on to contradict it. In regard to the theory of simulation, Lord Penzance pointed out that if Lady Mordaunt was shamming, she would have to sham all the days of her life; for the moment she proved sane, her husband would have his remedy. His lordship then went on to comment on the evidence of the servants.

The Judge having concluded his remarks, the jury, after five minutes' deliberation, found that Lady Mordaunt, on the 30th of April, was insane, and had been so since.

The special correspondent of the *Birmingham Post* writes:—"The Prince of Wales consulted Earl Granville and the Lord Chancellor before tendering himself for examination, and was encouraged by their advice to attend the Court. I hear that the only doubt entertained by the Lord Chancellor was whether the course proposed to be taken by his Royal Highness, however agreeable to the feelings of his future subjects, was quite fair to the other gentlemen whose names had been mentioned in the case. If the Prince purged himself from any complicity, would not a prejudice be raised against those who did not follow him, and similarly declare their innocence? Sir F. Johnstone, for reasons special and peculiar to himself, was equally desirous to make a statement. They were neither of them summoned, and their appearance, as was feared in high legal quarters, has raised a certain unfair presumption against the other parties whose names came up during the hearing. Another rumour of the day is that the most illustrious personage in the land wrote to the Prince after hearing of the evidence he had given, to offer him her affectionate congratulations, and to invite him to call, with the Princess, to receive them in person. The Prince and Princess accordingly called upon the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The Queen's sympathy with Lady Mordaunt's family has been warmly and constantly expressed through the Dowager Duchess of Athole, who has been throughout the trial in attendance on the Queen at Windsor, and her daily companion in her walks and drives."

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—Lord Napier of Magdala was examined on Monday before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and referring to the estimated expenditure of 3,500,000*l.* made in November, 1867, his lordship expressed his opinion that no approximate calculation of the cost could have been made. The cost and the route for the army were altogether unknown. Lord Napier spoke of the difficulties attending the conveyance of the troops and of their provisions, and said that it was quite possible that the followers of the army numbered 30,000, while the estimate was originally 7,900. He had no more troops than he needed, nor were there too many transports. At the close of the noble lord's evidence the committee adjourned.

Literature.

"ECCLESIA."*

(Second Notice.)

If we were to draw a comparison between these essays, we should unhesitatingly assign the first place, for elevation of style, both in thought and treatment, to that contributed by the editor. The theme assigned to him—"The Forgiveness and Absolution of Sins,"—demands of an earnest theologian the most serious exercise of his noblest powers, and Dr. Reynolds has treated it with the candour, the courage, and the calmness required by the most perplexed question in modern controversial divinity. He treats it expositively, not polemically; the essay is throughout positive, not negative. It is harder to establish a definite doctrinal position than to controvert the positions of others; but the value of the accomplishment is in exact proportion to its difficulty. As between the "expiatory" and "moral" theories of the Atonement, Dr. Reynolds leaves us in no doubt that he adheres to the expiatory; his recognition of the value of the truths contended for by advocates of the "moral" theory is, however, so cordial and ungrudging, and his exposition of the idea of "expiation" is so guarded, so free from exaggerated expressions and from the determination to press words or even conceptions to their last fancied logical conclusion, as almost to disarm criticism. Combatants of his position, Dr. Reynolds will scarcely meet with among Congregationalists, although many may wish to suggest to him questions which his exposition must awaken, and in some points to ask its further development.

Dr. Reynolds happily employs the term introduced into physical science by Mr. Grove. Speaking of the subjective results of the death of Christ, the "spiritual conditions resulting from the activity of the spiritual forces" at work in men by the sacrifice of the Cross, he asks whether these "are not related to one another, very much as the physical forces of heat, light, electricity, magnetism, and motion are correlated."

"In theological and metaphysical discourse we are dealing with the union of the Divine and human, of the infinite and the finite in the soul of man. A Divine force or energy is discovered to be at work in human nature. A new and blessed element is penetrating the entire constitution of man. The consequence is, that in proportion as this mystery of grace and power secures its highest end, viz., a voluntary surrender of an individual to the Divine will, and in proportion as a man yields himself to God, or is reconciled to Him, or, in other words, trusts the character, and depends on the faithfulness and eternal love of God, a state of mind and heart and will has supervened on the old and alien nature, which is adequately described by one or other of these famous theological terms, according as this state is regarded in different relations."

Regeneration, reconciliation with God, righteousness or justification, faith, repentance, love, assurance, sanctification, redemption, adoption, are then all affirmed to be included in, and in some measure deduced from, the phrase "eternal life." "I do not mean to imply by this enumeration that all these theological phrases are mutually convertible, or that all the time-honoured distinctions here referred to are mere subjective differences of aspect." But they are correlative. They mutually imply each other. They "do in every case presuppose the same fundamental state of the human soul, when it is under the power of the Divine will, and voluntarily and fully yielding itself to the Divine behests."

The gain in simplicity and clearness following from this representation is precisely similar to the gain that has accrued to physical science from the conception of correlated physical forces. The ground is here cut beneath many a controversy, and the idea of "eternal life" as a unity is forcibly suggested. The elder Scotch school of metaphysics perplexed inquirers by its exposition of various "faculties" of the mind, almost as though they were separate powers, instead of the modes of thought of one rational being, just as the exposition of the imponderables, as though they were distinct entities, troubled physicists. Theology, too, has suffered from manifold divisions. It is a gain to be rid of these.

Dr. Reynolds speaks of "righteousness," "justification" as being "the state of mind covered by the phrase eternal life," when viewed as "contrasted with the previous condition of condemnation, which the righteous government of God had pronounced against all unrighteousness and sin," and "regarded in view of the law which threatened, and of

"the lawgiver and judge who had pronounced the sentence of deprivation and death." Elsewhere he says that the word "justify" in the New Testament does not mean "to make just," or "to infuse righteousness." "There can be no serious question that the main, if not the exclusive, use of the word, is a forensic one: 'that it signifies 'to declare just,' to 'acquit,' 'to reckon as righteous,' in opposition to the idea of 'condemn.' " But he also feels the difficulty of applying the forensic idea of justification to a sinner's forgiveness; he points out that the two ideas of acquittal and pardon are incompatible.

"It is not necessary here to draw the distinction between an acquittal by a jury and pardon by a sovereign. It is sufficient to remark, that a verdict of 'Not guilty,' or a reversal of a sentence, declares the offender to have been unjustly accused and to need no pardon. Pardon assumes guilt, the acquittal of a prisoner implies the absence of adequate evidence for his condemnation, and repudiates the accusation of guilt. The two terms, though sometimes brought together in discussion, are, if supposed to refer to the same offence, naturally incompatible. If the analogies of human judicature were strictly applied, we should say that the justification of a sinner rendered pardon unnecessary; that acquittal at the bar of justice from a charge which imperfect knowledge or deficient evidence had endeavoured to sustain, is a declaration that the transgressor in the eye of law is free from all blame, and therefore needs no pardon."

Is not this a condemnation of the forensic theory altogether? We can understand the popular use of the term "justify" by Paul; but the vindication of the "necessity of the sacrifice of Christ" as satisfying the strict analogies of human judicature, seems to us to split inevitably and ruinously upon this rock, that justification and pardon are mutually incompatible. We prefer the expiatory to the forensic terms. In the light of the Divine Fatherhood the pagan form of expiation cannot live. If we speak of the punishment of sin falling on Christ, the expression carries its own qualification with it; and doubtless in the whole corporate condition of humanity and scheme of the Divine government the penal element cannot be eliminated from the sufferings and death of Christ. But the whole value of the forensic interpretation professes to rest on its being an adequate and accurate account of the fact; if it fail in adequacy and accuracy, its failure is total.

We can only glance at one other point in this essay: we append the quotation we are about to criticise, lest we should unwittingly misrepresent the author. We have italicised two passages in it.

"There are two elements in every penal infliction, on the one hand there is the exhibition of the rightness of the link which connects sin and suffering. This is evident in the demands of moral order, and in the safety thus extended to the law itself. These are universal and binding, save when, by the direct and gracious interference of the Law-giver, they are for adequate reasons arrested or suspended. The end of this [italicised by Dr. Reynolds] element in the punishment is God Himself; but, on the other hand, there are all the moral and disciplinary functions of penal suffering, which, like pain in the physical system, are parts of a beneficent arrangement for the preservation of life. The end of these elements in the punishment of sin, is the sanctification of the sinner, and these, when seen to be the action of a Father's love, lose all their curse and are transmuted into blessing. When the punishment that falls on us is felt to be the loving discipline of a Father's hand, the sting is taken away from it; then we can glory in infirmities, distresses, and afflictions, and believe that nothing can separate us from His love. That which the suffering of Christ has effected for us is the exhaustion of the curse. The claims of the law are satisfied in His infinite sorrow and unique sacrifice. The judicial sentence was pronounced on all sins when God condemned sin in His flesh. The law is safe, the moral order of the universe is undisturbed, the sanctions of virtue are maintained, and in the pardon of sin, in the practical removal from the transgressor himself of the moral and judicial consequences of human transgressions, the great change is wrought in the soul of man by which the punishments that yet encumber his flesh and spirit become disciplinary, excite no rebellion, provoke no antagonism, but actually draw him nearer to the heart and will of the holy God. The ultimate issue of this great act of clemency will be the entire sanctification of the forgiven spirit, and the acceptance with joy and faith of everything that shall bring the whole man into perfect accord with the Divine will."

Does Dr. Reynolds identify "the curse" with "the exhibition of the rightness of the link which connects sin and suffering?" If so, we can hardly allow that this is wholly removed by the suffering of Christ. We cordially agree with him, that Christ did suffer to "exhibit" that "rightness"; by God's giving up His Son to suffer in consequence of sin, and by Christ's endurance of the consequences of sin, that "rightness" is commended to "faith" as it never could be to "understanding," even were all the processes and reasons of the Divine government unfolded to us, and were we able to grasp them wholly. But pardoned sinners still suffer consequences of their sin (this is the very difficulty Dr. Reynolds is here considering, and we do not think he removes it), in their suffering there are "unmistakable signs of the inviolable laws of the Most High." If in these

sufferings there was not exhibited "the rightness of the link" which connects them with sin, they would not "lose all their curse, and be transmuted into blessing." That element of "rightness" alone makes them appear "the action of a father's love"; but for this there would be no "moral and disciplinary functions of penal suffering." It is part of the blessedness of reconciliation with the Father, that because it is felt to be right that suffering should be connected with sin, so many after consequences of transgression are patiently endured by the forgiven sinner. He endures them because he is forgiven. It is in the changed feeling of the sinner towards God and God's law, it seems to us, and not "in the practical removal from the transgressor himself of the moral and judicial consequences of human transgressions"—for some of these remain after forgiveness—that the "curse" is removed. Christ hath redeemed us from the "curse" of the law, from its condemnation; not from all of even its "judicial" consequences.

It is not mere hair-splitting to draw these distinctions: for the "difficulty" which has suggested the discussion, the fact, namely, that punishment does not appear to be wholly remitted on repentance and faith, is analogous, at least, if not identical, with the difficulty of conceiving of Christ as bearing penal consequences of sin. "Forasmuch as the children are partakers, he also himself likewise took part of the same"; let the mode of the one endurance be apprehended, the mode of the other will be in part suggested also.

Dr. Reynolds has some able criticisms of the priestly theory of absolution; the chief value of the essay is, however, that while it distinguishes between "the great forces of love and law," it so emphatically represents them as "surging from the same centre."

Mr. Dale's essay—"The doctrine of the Real Presence, and of the Lord's Supper"—has not given us the same pleasure in reading as that of Dr. Reynolds. It is mainly controversial; and in the latter part of it the writer seems to be upon a false scent. Following Albertinus and Jeremy Taylor, Mr. Dale exposes the comparatively recent origin of the Tridentine doctrine of transubstantiation, and the lack of harmonious definition of the doctrine in Roman Catholic standards. He has some timely and able criticisms of the Eucharistic doctrine of the Ritualists, especially of the notion of the Eucharist as an "extension of the Incarnation" unfolded in Mr. Cobb's "Kiss of Peace." But the portion of his essay which will probably excite the greatest attention among Congregationalists, is that in which he criticises "the theory of the Lord's supper, commonly held by Evangelical Nonconformists."

We think Mr. Dale is justified in his strictures on the statement in the "Declaration of Faith and Order" of the Congregational Union, that the Lord's Supper is "to be celebrated by Christian Churches as a token of faith in the Saviour and of brotherly love." The intense subjectivity that characterises the religious thought of Nonconformists is seen in the statement occasionally made from the pulpit and echoed by those desiring Church fellowship, that sitting at the Lord's table is primarily a religious profession. This has resulted from the necessity of protest, not only against sacramentarian theories, but also against political prostitution of the Sacrament in former days, and the theory of multitudinism now. Mr. Dale has done good service in dwelling on the fact that the essential character of the Sacraments is that they are "acts originating with God." And with a touch of characteristic candour, he adds that "there are tens of thousands of Congregationalists, the actual attitude of whose souls at the Lord's Supper can be indicated only by a theory very different from that of the later 'declaration'; their chief thought is not of professing their own 'faith in the Saviour,' and 'their brotherly love'; they go to the table to receive, not to give." But he is not so happy in his criticism of the theory which represents the Sacraments as instituted "to perpetuate the memory of historical facts, to illustrate spiritual truths, to make an impression on the hearts of those who celebrate the rites or who witness their celebration." Indeed, he seems to struggle under an uneasy suspicion that it is so; for while he says that "it is instructive to observe how very little has been written by Nonconformist authors in illustration and defence of any positive doctrine on the Eucharist," he excuses his own deficiencies by the observation that "to state what may be properly called the 'doctrine of the Eucharist, to interpret the 'mysteries it reveals to all devout souls, is impossible." Notwithstanding several pages of earnest writing, we fail to see wherein Mr. Dale differs from his brethren. He speaks of

* Ecclesia: Church Problems Considered, in a Series of Essays. Edited by HENRY ROBERT REYNOLDS, D.D. President of Cheshunt College; Fellow of University College, London. (London: Hodder and Stoughton.)

the Lord's Supper as a "a seal," and has some illustrations of other symbolical ceremonies. But the real question about the Sacraments is as to the mode in which they act; is their virtue magical or is it rational? *ex opere* or by reason of the fulness of their suggestion to heart and mind? Mr. Dale really is arguing in favour of our seeing a greater wealth and tenderness of meaning in the Lord's Supper, but it is still its meaning he would have us apprehend. Let it be granted that Christ should be recognised as the author of the Sacrament, and presiding over every Eucharistic service; the question still recurs, how is He to be apprehended? And if the answer be, by the mind and heart of the communicant, those awkward words put by Mr. Dale within depreciatory commas, "didactic" and "impressive," express the mode of the Sacrament's operation.

"The weakness of the extreme Protestant position lies in this," says Mr. Dale, "that to interpret our Lord's words, when He instituted the service, as meaning 'This bread represents my body,' leaves upon the mind an impression of dissatisfaction. That the bread was broken and distributed to the Apostles with a simple 'didactic' purpose—that the whole rite is only a visible memorial of the death of Christ—is a theory which has never yet been able to lay a firm hold on the mind of any considerable section of the Church."

The weakness of which complaint is here made is that of translating poetry into prose. The power of a symbol is that it appeals at once to the whole man; to heart and mind, soul and spirit, simultaneously with its appeal to the senses. A symbol has momentum, it carries a weight of suggestions, and it moves rapidly. To insist on disburdening it of all its wealth of associated thought and feeling, in order to get out of it a logical proposition, and to make it very slowly possess the man through a process of the understanding, instead of flash upon him as an intuition, is, indeed, to make it "weak." But he is to blame who insists on doing this. If any one should say, "The weakness of the eagle is that he is a poor walker," the reply would be, "He is not intended to walk, but to soar and swoop." It is the weakness of scholastic theology that it distrusts every organ of truth in man save an artificially trained logical understanding; the law of opposites is the same, the taint of scholasticism is seen in this essay that deals so severely with scholastic theories.

We have still three essays to notice which we must defer to another number.

WENDERHOLME.*

"Wenderholme" is a novel, but it is one of a type of which, unfortunately, we have few specimens. It would be easy to find faults in the plot—for where was there ever a plot about whose fidelity to nature there might not be two opinions, or reasons to point out real or imagined inconsistencies in some of the characters? but, if all the objections which a cavilling criticism might raise could be maintained, they would not materially detract from the merits of what every candid reader will feel to be a work of genius. Mr. Hamerton is much more than a mere story-teller. He is a keen observer of the beauties of nature on the one side, and of the peculiarities of human character on the other, and knows how to describe both with great beauty and effectiveness, and it is from his charming description of scenery and humorous sketches of life that one of the principal charms of his book is derived. The scene is laid in the manufacturing district on the borders of Lancashire and Yorkshire, one of the most uncivilised parts of that northern region, where all kinds of primitive ideas and habits still survive, and where the people partake of the hard and rugged character of the country in which they reside. To dwellers in the south, and, indeed, even to a large number of the inhabitants of Manchester, the region is as much a *terra incognita* as Lord Westbury tells us the Equity Courts are to the common law practitioners. Perhaps we might even adopt the mistaken reading of the *Times* reporter, and say that they are also a perfect terror. The rough exterior, which, however, often conceals a kind and generous heart, the bluntness of the manners, the contempt for those euphemisms by which in other circles disagreeable statements are softened down, the peculiarities of the dialect, all impress, and at first possibly repel, a stranger. But further acquaintance shows him how much there is to admire in the native shrewdness and sagacity, the indomitable energy, the genuine kindness, the manly straightforwardness of the people. Mr. Hamerton has evidently studied them with interest, and with some degree of sympathy. If he has not completely mastered the vernacular of

the county, he has gained a very fair knowledge of it; and, though the "fella from 'Rachde," or Benjamin Brierley, or some of the other classical writers of the dialect would doubtless point out mistakes,—we could ourselves name some, as, for example, when he uses the word "wenly" for the well-known Lancashire "welly," "some and glad," for some-glad, one of the most common idioms of the county,—still our wonder is that he has been able to achieve so much success. Into the people themselves he appears to have gained considerable insight. Of course, his pictures are taken only from a particular neighbourhood, and do not profess to give any idea of the better kinds of Lancashire society. Indeed, even in these remote districts, the state of things here described is rapidly passing away; for, though in such a trade as the cotton manufacture there are always *hovi nomines* passing into the ranks of the capitalists, who are of the same type as the Ogdens of this story, they are largely affected by the spirit of the times, and the tone of the men whom, in the course of business, they must meet on the Manchester Exchange, and many of whom are as gentlemanly in their bearing as they are intelligent and keen-sighted in the conduct of their business.

"Wenderholme" must be accepted, therefore, as representing the past rather than the present—a sketch of life in a corner of Lancashire in the past generation. Mr. Hamerton has guarded himself against the objections which might otherwise have been made to his portraiture by the description he gives us of the locality where the events here narrated occurred. Shayton is a large manufacturing village, on the edge of the wide moorland which runs along the boundaries of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and almost shut out, therefore, from the more refined parts of the county. It was several miles even from Sootythorn, the large town of the neighbourhood, and the road between them passed "through narrow gorges, which were sometimes thickly planted with fir-trees, and sometimes walled and buttressed with lofty 'cliffs of dark-grey sandstone,' and at particular points was 'so effectually shut in on all sides' by the steep hills, that the traveller might 'imagine himself in some secluded valley of the lake district, a hundred miles from factory 'smoke.' It is just in such a place, and especially in such a place as it would be in the early days of the principal characters of this story, having everything to foster a self-reliance that soon passes into conceit and opinionativeness, and little contact with the outside world to supply the necessary correctives, that strong individuality is developed, and to this tendency Mr. Hamerton has done full justice in his portraiture of character. The Ogdens, Dr. Bardly, Old Sarah, Susy Tattersall, the lollypop-woman, and, in fact, all the Shayton people, are a group of originals. Very skilfully does Mr. Hamerton indicate the shades of difference between them and their Sootythorn neighbours. The Ansons and Stedmans are of the same class, but on them the influences of town life have begun to tell; and they have passed into another grade. Especially is this the case with the young ladies of the family, who would have looked down upon the more homely Shayton women, who were still their own confectioners, and so proud of their performances in this department that they believed that, "so long as a man ate heartily of 'their puddings and pies, and sweetstuff' generally, he dwelt in safety."

Among these Shayton women, Mrs. Ogden, the mother of the wealthy manufacturer, Jacob Ogden, and his brother Isaac, whose love of drink had separated him from his brother, and doomed him to a solitary life, is the most remarkable. She is drawn to the life. A clever, hard-headed, strong-willed old woman, without any refinement, and yet with a deep vein of kindness underlying the brusquerie on which she rather prided herself, who could not bear the idea of giving up the direction of her sons even after they had come to be middle-aged men, and always talked of them as "our 'Jacob,' or 'our Isaac,' but who, with all her avowed contempt for the appliances of luxury, cherished a strong pride in these outward tokens of the prosperity her "Jacob" was enjoying. We first meet her in the kitchen, busy in the manufacture of a potato pie, but dressed in "a fine 'flowered satin, which a punster would at once 'acknowledge in a double sense if he saw the 'farinaceous scatterings which just now adorn 'it.' One of her theories—and she has a good many of a singular character—is "that she 'is so exquisitely neat in all she does, that for 'her there is no danger of wearing any dress 'she chooses, either in her kitchen or elsewhere,' and so, even in the midst of her work, we find her thus gorgeously arrayed. She was, however, in general the perfection of an economical managing housewife, a good specimen of a class of Lancashire women, to whose keenness

and prudence their husbands have been greatly indebted for their own rise from the ranks of the operative to those of the capitalist. Those who are acquainted with any of these women will confess that this portrait of Mrs. Ogden, which, we should say, was the *chef d'œuvre* of the tale, were there not also those of Dr. Bardly and Lady Helena Stanburne to divide the palm with it, is neither a caricature nor an exaggeration. Many of the scenes in which she is introduced are described with exquisite humour, and we should have been glad to quote some of them if our space allowed, or if any extract could have done justice to the art which the author has shown here.

"Wenderholme" is not a temperance story, but we doubt whether any of the prize tales published by the Temperance League would serve their purpose better. Isaac Ogden's struggle against the demon of strong drink, is narrated with great power. The state of things at Shayton must certainly have been exceptionally bad, if the most moderate and exemplary among its men, "would in any other 'part of England be looked upon as toppers, or 'in a fair way of becoming so,' and 'if out of 'twenty adult male inhabitants, fifteen either 'died of *delirium tremens*, or were only saved 'from that otherwise inevitable fate by 'the interposition of some other and 'more creditable calamity.' But while "we should hope that this is an exaggeration, we cannot conceal from ourselves the fact that intemperance is just the vice to which men in the position of these Shayton people, with few internal resources, nothing approaching to a public life, abundant means, and no intellectual tastes, are most exposed. And, though the public opinion of the place condemned drunkenness, it encouraged its growth by the favour with which it regarded free drinking, "so that "mothers who had lost their sons, and widows "who had lost their husbands, by the universal "enemy, *delirium tremens*, would nevertheless "have felt the utmost difficulty in tolerating "anything approaching to teetotalism under "their roofs: and would terminate the most "touching lamentations for the dead, and the "sagest reflections on the fearful consequences "of excess, by inviting the hearer, in the most "pressing manner, 'to mix himself another "glass of brandy-and-water.' Mr. Hamerton has done good service by his exposure of the vice, and it will be all the more telling because the book is not written professedly with this end. Even if the description be a little highly-coloured, that is a fault which may well be pardoned when there is so terrible an evil to rebuke. If we have not entered into the plot itself, it is because we care less for it than for the clever and telling sketches of life and character with which the book abounds, and which throw the interest of the story into the shade. It is fair to say, however, that in this respect too "Wenderholme" contrasts favourably with the majority of novels, for the plot is natural enough, and is exceedingly well worked out. We wish we could introduce our readers to Colonel and Lady Helena Stanburne, who belong to an entirely different circle from the Ogdens and Ansons, and whose little matrimonial differences are described with great art and truthfulness, or to Dr. Bardly, the man of science as well as the medical practitioner, the witty talker and the sincere friend, who, however, though he could speak the finest English, was so fond of Lancashire, "that on ordinary "occasions he always used it," who was, in short, "one of the most intelligent men in a neighbourhood where good brains are as plentiful "as full purses." But we must forbear. The book has about it much life and freshness, and Lancashire men in particular may enjoy these sketches, drawn by one who has so much sympathy with the county and its habits that he anticipates half regretfully the time when "the pure dialect of Lancashire will have given "place to the English of the schoolmaster and "the penny-a-liner. This may be in many "ways a great gain—it will bring our important "population into closer and easier relations with "the other inhabitants of the island—but it "will not be an unmixed gain; and a thousand "pregnant turns of expression, a thousand "keen-edged phrases that have been sharpened "by the wit of many generations, will be lost "for ever to our soft-tongued posterity."

BRIEF NOTICES.

The Rule of the Monk. Two vols. By General GARI-BALDI. (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.) A work of this character from any other pen than that of Garibaldi, would scarcely find its way beyond that circle of readers in which the writers of "horrors" find themselves best appreciated. But there is this important difference between "The Rule of the Monk" and the writings of the blood-and-thunder school. The latter are written for the market; truth of representation is with them

Wenderholme: a Story of Lancashire and Yorkshire. By P. G. HAMERTON. Three vols. (Edinburgh and London: W. Blackwood and Sons.)

a very secondary consideration. In the former, the aim of the writer is seen on every page. The unity of Italy, the restoration of Rome, the overthrow of the Papacy and all ecclesiastical tyranny; for nothing less than these could Garibaldi draw the sword or use the pen. With him, patriotism is the master passion. He speaks and thinks of Rome, the ideal Rome, as the lover thinks of his mistress. It would seem as if in his advancing age, the memory of her who died while accompanying him in his flight from the enemies of his country, had thrown a sort of halo around the cause of Italian freedom, and led him to adopt, as it were, parallel lines of thought, the one pertaining to the ancient capital of Italy, and the other to the love of earlier days. Certain it is that every chapter in the book, whatever its relation to the "ulterior object" of all the General's efforts, has immediate reference to the fortunes of some one or more of his heroes and heroines. Priestly intrigues, the flight and concealment of patriots, the chivalry of brigand life, and above all, the endurance and bravery of lovely woman, are again and again illustrated in some stirring and absorbing episode. Garibaldi hates war, and hates the destruction of animal life in any form; in fact, one reading his book can hardly think of him as a warrior, so beneficent is his purpose, and so Christlike are all his sympathies. Religion has in him a humble but a most devout disciple, and we can only hope that this painfully interesting and admirably written story, which is, we fear, but too true a representation of actual fact, may cause many a heart to beat more quickly at the thought of the wrongs which Italy yet sustains from the Papal power.

Credo (Hodder and Stoughton) is an English reprint of an American book. It belongs to that numerous class of manuals on the evidences of Christianity which have this recommendation in common, that they do in some measure revive or confirm the faith of those whom internal evidence and personal experience have not wholly satisfied. It is the work of an anonymous author, who has read widely, and as to matters of scientific and historical fact, appears generally to possess accurate knowledge, although there is too much readiness to explain, or explain away, those difficulties which candid minds generally admit to stand in the way of an unhesitating adherence to some of the secondary doctrines of "Evangelical" Christianity.

Stars on a Stormy Night, or Light from the Catacombs, by E. L. M. (T. Nelson and Sons), belongs also to a department of literature which has received numerous contributions. "E. L. M.," like "A. L. O. E.," endeavours to blend fiction with fact, and in writing about the martyrdom of the early Christians in Rome, combines the well-known facts of the time with the fruits of her imagination. The narrative is one of painful interest and is well adapted for young people.

Bye-path Meadow, by the Rev. PAXTON HOOD. (S. W. Partridge and Co.) There is excellent advice and pleasant reading too in Mr. Hood's volume. A great point is gained when the course of folly is made so palpably foolish as in the instances which are here given of the excursions into "Bye-path Meadow." The form of the book is that of a continuous narrative in several chapters, but its chief interest and its moral and religious value are found in those points where one and another of the subjects of the story turn aside or refuse to turn aside from the "turnpike road" of truth and duty to the "Meadow" by the way-side, which inclination too often tempts men to enter. Such a work is but too much needed in an age when, to so great an extent, men care only to do what is right in the sight of their own eyes.

Marvels of Architecture, translated from the French of M. Lefebvre; to which is added a Chapter on English Architecture, by R. DONALD. (Cassell and Co.) If we cannot endorse the prefatory announcement to this little volume, that it contains a description of "All the celebrated structures that ever existed, or that are yet in existence, from the Tower of Babel downwards," we nevertheless can cordially recommend it to the general reader as affording much instructive and entertaining information. The author conducts his followers pleasantly among the structural wonders of the world in ancient, classic, and modern times, and his terse and pointed comments by the way serve, like a thread, to string the parts together. The Chapter on English Architecture, however, is not quite in harmony with the other portions of the work. Unfortunately the writer of this chapter, instead of contenting himself with chronicling some of the "marvels" of English architectural skill, begins to discourse upon "Gothic," and immediately falls into confusion. Curiously enough too, M. Lefebvre also discoursing upon "Gothic" likewise falls into confusion and assigns to this style a pure French parentage; this may be venial in the Frenchman, but Mr. Donald's confusion is of another kind, and betrays but a slight acquaintance with his subject. The book, however, will stand upon its many merits, while its few defects may be easily remedied in future issues. The text is very fully illustrated by woodcuts.

The Works and the Word of God. Illustrations of the Nineteenth Psalm, by the Rev. J. W. RICHARDSON. (J. Snow and Co.), is full of pious reflections which will no doubt find an echo in the heart of any Christian who may chance to read the work.—Mr. Thomas Cook's *Tourist Help Book for Egypt, Palestine, &c.* (Tourist Office), is all that it purports to be. Mr. Cook

is an old and wide-awake traveller, and there is a good deal of information here which may be useful to any traveller eastward, whether of Mr. Cook's party or not. The book is edited by Dr. Jabez Burns.—*Memoir of General Latter*, by Mrs. BAILLIE (James Nisbet and Co.). An affectionate tribute of a daughter to the undoubted piety of a brave soldier and a good father.—*Life of the Rev. James Draper*, by John C. SYMONDS, second thousand (Hodder and Stoughton), furnishes a biographical account of an earnest worker for Christ, and contains also information respecting Wesleyan Methodism in Australia, and other matters connected with the religious and social condition of that country.—*Peter the Prophet*, by Rev. J. MORTON BROWN, second edition (J. Snow and Co.), is a free translation of one of Scott's Novels—the "Heart of Mid-Lothian," speaking from memory—but that perhaps only shows how near Sir Walter was to historic truth. It is a thrilling story of the battles of the Covenanters.—*Jesus Christ and His Work*, an exposition of Psalm xl., by Rev. J. FRAME (J. Snow and Co.), contains Mr. Frame's thoughts about this psalm and its application to Christ.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

According to a weekly paper, several gentlemen were looking at the interior of the chapel in the High-street, Brentwood, which is shortly to be pulled down, when one of them accidentally discovered a painting. Upon removing the plaster, the nearly complete figure of an archbishop, wearing his mitre, was brought to light. It is thought probable that this is a representation of Thomas à Becket.

News of the illness of Mdlle. Patti reaches us, says the *Musical Standard*, from St. Petersburg; the lady is suffering from quinsy, induced by the excessive cold.

A new poem by George Eliot, 800 lines in length, will appear in April in one of the magazines.

Mr. R. W. Emerson has been appointed University lecturer at Harvard for 1870-71; Mr. O. W. Holmes, jun., son of the well-known author, instructor in constitutional law; and Mr. John Fiske, a Comtist writer of some distinction, as instructor in history.

In the French Cabinet there are two devoted musical amateurs—M. Richard, who is a great admirer of Meyerbeer, and M. Ollivier, who, besides playing the violin, has written for that instrument several concertos.

The *Dublin University Magazine* has passed into the hands of English proprietors.

Mrs. Faithfull requests us to state that a special exhibition and sale of ladies' work will take place next Tuesday, at the Victoria Press, Princes-street, Hanover-square, between eleven and six o'clock. The collection includes some beautiful specimens of English point lace, wool in plain work of all kinds, and wood carving.

THE COMING ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—The *Architect* has some gossip upon the forthcoming Exhibition of the Royal Academy. Mr. Millais will contribute several important works, including an inundation scene; the young Raleighs sitting on the seashore and listening in rapt attention to the wondrous tales of a bronzed sailor from the Western main; and two portraits, one being a full length of the young Marchioness of Huntly. Mr. B. M. Ward has taken for his subject an incident in the life of Judge Jeffreys, while Mrs. Ward has selected one from the history of Napoleon the Great. Mr. Leighton, R.A. (who is ill) is engaged on "Andromache at the Well," which is intended to realise the picture which presents itself to the imagination of Hector as to the possible future of his wife. The same artist has also in hand an important work, "Hercules struggling with the Angel of Death." Mr. Calderon has chosen for his principal theme two classic maidens drawing water on the banks of a stream, overhung by leafy boughs and a mass of clematis. A second work shows us two beggar children—a girl and a little boy—standing in the snow and fog of a winter day, while the first plays upon a harp. "Spring driving away Winter" forms the subject of another picture, and Mr. Calderon may also exhibit one or two portraits.

Miscellaneous.

THE EDUCATIONAL TEST for paupers who cannot be put to stone-breaking or oakum-picking has been finally adopted by the Marylebone guardians.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.—The London Missionary Society is about to memorialise the Duke of Argyll in favour of the withdrawal of the Government from all connection with the opium traffic.

FROM ENGLAND TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.—A resident in British Columbia accomplished his return journey thither from Liverpool recently in eighteen days and a half. The route was by railroad from New York to San Francisco.

THE THORNCLEIFFE DISPUTE.—The negotiation for the settlement of the Thorncleiffe Colliery dispute has collapsed, and Lord Wharncliffe has withdrawn his mediation. At a meeting of the miners, held on Friday, the terms proposed by the company were rejected.

MARRIAGE AND DEATH.—On Sunday a young farmer, named Macanlay, was married at Annagh, near Limerick, and he celebrated the happy event by a feast. A piece of meat which he was attempting to swallow lodged in his throat, and he died from suffocation before aid could be obtained.

THE TORNADO QUESTION.—Some further correspondence has been published in reference to the imprisonment of the crew of the Tornado. The sum of 1,500*l.* has been offered to them by the Spanish Government, in deference, it is said, to the recommendations of her Majesty's Government. This offer has not yet been accepted.

PUBLIC MORALS AND THE LAW.—A London committee has been formed for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. Amongst the names attached to it are those of the Bishop of Lichfield, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rev. F. D. Maurice, Mr. John Stuart Mill, Mr. A. J. Mundella, M.P., and Professor F. W. Newman.

THE DIAL NEWSPAPER.—The *Dial*, registered as the National Newspaper League Company, is now in process of dissolution. The amount repaid to the shareholders is at the rate of 4*s.* in the pound upon the amount subscribed. The total amount subscribed was 37,000*l.* odd, of which amount 20,000*l.* were sunk in preliminary expenses, the balance of 17,000*l.* and another 500*l.* being paid to the *Star* proprietor for a moiety of their paper and property. The amount now divisible is the proceeds of the half-share of the *Star* property reverting to the *Dial* shareholders.—*Observer*.

THE PEABODY FUND.—The trustees of the Peabody Fund have published their annual report. To the first gift of 150,000*l.* rents and interest have added 26,809*l.*, and after the payment of necessary expenses there remained in hand at the end of last year 175,079*l.* The second donation of 200,000*l.* has been increased by interest to the extent of 9,417*l.*, and under the provisions of the two trusts land has been purchased in Spitalfields, Islington, Shadwell, Westminster, Chelsea, Brixton, and Southwark. The first five of these sites are already occupied by buildings. The third donation of 150,000*l.* will not become available until 1873.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF LONDON.—At a meeting of the Court of Common Council, on Thursday, a notice of motion was given by Mr. C. Robinson, to the effect that the best way of securing efficient municipal Government for London would be to extend the existing powers of the Corporation over the whole of the metropolitan area. The question whether it would be to the public advantage that the interests of the city water companies should be purchased, and their management vested in the Corporation, was referred to a committee.

IRISH NEWS.—The steward of Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald was fired at on Thursday night as he was entering his house.—At the Pettigo Farmers' Society dinner on Thursday, only five persons drank the Queen's health, and the toast of the Royal Family was not recognised at all. Great disrespect was shown while the chairman was proposing her Majesty's health. Kerrigan, a relative of the postmaster at Slanemore, county Meath, and who was fired at and wounded on Tuesday night, has died.—Since the summer assizes of 1869, 170 outrages, consisting of shooting with intent to kill, firing into dwellings, assaulting the police, sending threatening letters, &c., have (according to the *Dublin Express*) taken place in Westmeath.

THE WELSH FASTING GIRL.—Mr. Coleridge appeared on behalf of the Crown at a meeting of magistrates in Carmarthen on Monday to open the prosecution against the doctors who had undertaken the charge of the Welsh fasting girl before her death. Mr. Coleridge asked that a bill might be sent to the grand jury at the assizes. He commented severely and at length upon the conduct of the doctors during the girl's illness, and appealed to the court to give their consent to the case being sent to a tribunal where the entire treatment of the fasting girl would be satisfactorily investigated, and the mysteries still surrounding it be cleared up. The magistrates ultimately adjourned the consideration of the matter till Thursday.

UNNECESSARILY STOPPING A TRAIN.—The first prosecution by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company against a passenger for unnecessarily causing a train to be stopped by means of the apparatus provided for communicating with the guard, was instituted last week, and the case heard at the Dartford Police-court on Saturday. The defendant was Mr. John Usher, an auctioneer of Canterbury, who, it appeared, was a few days prior a passenger by the company's line from Canterbury to Rochester, and having failed to alight at the last-named city, communicated with the guard when near Farningham-road Station, the consequence being that the train was immediately stopped. A fine of 40*s.* and costs was inflicted.

BREWERS AND TAXATION.—On Friday the Chancellor of the Exchequer received a deputation representing the brewing interest, and the object of waiting upon the right hon. gentleman was to induce him to take off the duty of 3*d.* per barrel imposed by Mr. Gladstone in 1861. Mr. Lowe suggested that the tax was levied upon the article produced, and that the brewers recouped themselves from their customers. This, however, was denied by the deputation, and Mr. Bass, M.P., stated that in four years this tax had cost him 64,000*l.*, in return for which he had not received sixty-four pence from his customers. Mr. Lowe, although not convinced that the brewer had not the power of charging the tax upon the consumer, promised to consider the question.

MEETING OF UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN.—Mr. George Odger presided on Monday evening at an open-air meeting of unemployed labourers on Clerkenwell-green, called by the promoters of the Land and Labour League. About 2,000 persons were present,

and the chairman having expressed his confidence in the promoters of the meeting, as men who were labouring hard to promote the welfare of their fellow-working men, Mr. Patrick Hennessey read a memorial to be presented to the Premier, the principal point of which was that Government should purchase the waste lands and let them out in some holdings for reclamation and improvement, by which a large amount of labour would be provided. This memorial having been unanimously adopted, and other resolutions carried, the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.—The twenty-third anniversary festival of this institution took place on Wednesday, at the London Tavern, under the presidency of Mr. J. D. Allcroft. In making his appeal for the asylum at Earlswood, he said he went there last week, and tenanted as the building was, he found it very difficult at first to refrain from tears, but after he had been there a few hours the sadness of the first impression disappeared, and he was struck with the loving care taken of the inmates. Their number was 485, but the board of management hoped to provide accommodation for 800. The estimate for the extension of the building was 30,000*l.*, of which about one-third had been contributed during the three years that the subscription had been opened, and the work was being proceeded with as rapidly as possible. The subscriptions during the evening amounted to about 2,000*l.*

PERILOUS MEETING WITH A MADMAN.—An Englishman in Paris had a narrow escape a few days ago from a frightful death. Tranquilly contemplating the city from the top of the Vendôme column, he did not notice a man, seemingly peaceable enough, standing close behind him. Suddenly the fellow started forward, clasped our countryman round the waist, and exclaimed—"I bet I throw you down, as sure as one and one make two." The Englishman looking at him, and finding out that he had to deal with a madman, with admirable presence of mind replied, at the same time tightening his grasp on the balustrade, "If you come below with me, I bet I can throw you up here as sure as one and one make two." Tempted by the difficulty of the proposition, the man let go his hold, and accompanied the Englishman down stairs, where he was immediately secured, and handed over to the proper authorities.—*The Graphic*.

THE NEW TREATY WITH CHINA.—A numerous deputation of China merchants, accompanied by several members of Parliament, had an interview with Lord Clarendon on Monday, to point out what are considered the objectionable provisions in the new Convention with China. Lord Clarendon, in replying, said it was a mistake to suppose that Sir Rutherford Alcock had acted in haste or without sufficient information in negotiating; nor had any of the gentlemen composing the committee of management for the Chinese Government anything to do with the treaty in a sense hostile to British interests. His lordship pointed out that the Treaty of Tientsin was regarded by the Chinese as a degradation. By having a treaty with China they must remember they placed her in the rank of civilised nations, and must treat her as an equal dealing with an equal, no longer endeavouring to carry things by force. His lordship's opinion was that the Convention was framed as well as it could be in the interests of England.

AN EXTRAORDINARY TRIAL FOR LIBEL occupied the Court of Exchequer on Thursday. Dr. C. J. Williams, of Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, sued the Duke and Duchess of Somerset for libel. In the autumn of last year the plaintiff professionally attended Earl St. Maur, the only surviving son of the defendants, who was suffering from a bronchial affection. On the 30th September the patient suddenly became worse, and died within a short time after a difficult surgical operation had been performed under the superintendence of Dr. Williams. The Duchess immediately circulated a pamphlet amongst her friends and acquaintances, accusing the plaintiff of ignorance and want of skill, calling him a hypocritical murderer, and attributing the real cause of Earl St. Maur's death to "Dr. Williams's reckless investigation to confute a rival and gratify his selfish professional vanity." The Duke and Duchess, however, now offer the amplest retraction and apology; and, as this was satisfactory to the plaintiff, a verdict was merely taken for a nominal sum.

MR. MURPHY AND THE EX-MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM.—The action by Mr. Murphy, the Anti-Popery lecturer, against the ex-mayor and superintendent of police of Birmingham, for alleged illegal arrest and false imprisonment, was tried on Monday at the Warwick Assizes. Mr. Murphy, who was arrested when attempting to enter an Irish Church meeting, in the Birmingham Town Hall, on the 14th June, claimed 1,000*l.* damages: but the real contention was as to a verdict to carry costs. Mr. Digby Seymour, Q.C., was for the plaintiff; and Mr. Serjeant O'Brien for the defendants. The defendants pleaded not guilty under the statutes, which they contended authorised the apprehension of Murphy. Mr. Digby Seymour urged that the issue involved the right of any subject peaceably to claim protection in attending a public meeting, and asked whether that being denied, any ratepayer could not claim the right to attend any town meetings, and if any magistrate could interfere to bar such right. Several witnesses were called, and ultimately the jury returned a verdict for plaintiff—damages, 40*s.*

THE POPE AND THE FENIANS.—Two priests have written to the *Irishman* on the subject of the recent Papal rescript. One of them aims to prove that Fenianism is not condemned by Rome. He tries to

draw a distinction between the Irish Republican and the Fenian Brotherhood, and to argue that, because there is a schism amongst the would-be rebels, it is doubtful which party is condemned, and this doubt will save both the priest and the penitent. The other thinks that any one will see, on reading the rescript, that the Pope imagines England to be Ireland's *law, ful* superior. This being a mere political opinion, any excommunication, therefore, based on it is no force. The writer proposes that petitions should be signed and sent on to Rome, showing Ireland's real position, her feelings, aspirations, and determinations. Thus the Pope will see that England is not a lawful power over Ireland, and will withdraw his rescript. On Thursday night an attempt was made to assassinate a man named Michael Slattery, a land steward in the employment of Mr. James Forster Vesey Fitzgerald, J.P., at Moyriska, within a few miles of Ennis. He was fired at as he was entering his own hall door, but fortunately suffered no injury. Marks of slugs were found on the door next morning. He had received a threatening notice warning him to quit the service. Mr. George Smith, a landlord residing at Kanturk, near Mallow, was shot at while dining on Sunday. Mr. Smith was wounded in the leg.

SHAM BULLFIGHT AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.—This place of amusement was reopened on Saturday night for an exhibition of what is called a real "Spanish bullfight." Notwithstanding the fact that the ordinary prices of admission to every part were doubled, there was a large assemblage, and the "10*s.* chairs" department may be said to have been almost filled by an audience composed of persons of distinction. Don Pablo Massa and his troupe of gorgeously-attired matadores, picadores, cavaliers, and banderillos, having made their obeisance to the audience, bull No. 1 was introduced. He was rough and lean-looking. The animals, with the exception of No. 3, seemed well-trained, and many were the hairbreadth escapes apparently sustained by the matadores and picadores; but the most amusing part was the determined attack made by some of the animals on a picadore mounted on a basket horse. Several times both horse and horseman were overthrown, and but for the throwing of the cloaks and cloths by the matadores to distract the animal's attention, it appeared at times as if the bull were determined to have revenge upon his antagonist when he was down. What appear to be darts are mere tubes with a flower at one end and a flat piece of pasteboard at the other, having on it a quantity of liquid glue, or some such substance, which sufficiently adheres to the hair of the animal's head or neck, and has all the appearance of sticking into the skin. The animal's horns are capped.

Cleanings.

A fever den in Marylebone is to be demolished by order of the vestry.

It is stated that several female scholarships will be founded at Cambridge.

At a viceregal ball in Dublin, Colonel Wardlaw was dancing, when his spur caught in a lady's gown, and he was thrown down with such violence that he fractured his hip.

"That's right," said a minister, preaching a long sermon on Daniel v. 27, to a congregation, the individuals of which were beginning to get up and go out one by one: "that's right, gentlemen; as fast as you are weighed, pass out."

The late Dean of Capetown, in relating his experience with tracts, found that the charity inculcated in them led one of his penitents to say: "I'm a changed man, sir, through them tracts. Once I cared for neither God or Devil; and now I loves 'em both alike."

Asking questions in city schools is sometimes a little risky. The Governor of Wisconsin, one of a committee of visitation lately visiting the Reformed School at Waukeesa, asked the assembled boys if they could tell him what they (the committee) came for. A little urchin promptly responded: "Yes, sir, to be reformed."

Advertising has come to be a fine art. The latest dodge which has come to our notice is the proposition of a smart Yankee, who has strayed as far as the Buckeye State, who offers to "send free to the superintendent of any Sunday-school 100 bottles" of some sort of medicine of marvellous healing virtue. This enterprising individual must be a disciple of Barnum.

AN EXPENSIVE FREAK.—George Francis Train has paid about two pounds sterling to send the following impudent telegram per the French cable from New York:—"To Victoria, London.—Give me back my tramways, or down goes your monarchy.—Train."

A GENUINE AMERICAN JOKE.—A little reconstructed Southern girl, five years old, asked a coloured servant, in the course of a theological examination, what the fifteenth commandment was. The reply that there were only ten commandments was scornfully received, and the child gravely announced that the fifteenth commandment was that the coloured people should vote.

"DRY" BURGLARS.—A burglary took place at Salford on Tuesday, at which the thieves, being disappointed in their expectations, set fire to the house, leaving a note of complaint as follows:—"Dear Sir,—Sorry we cannot find your money. We return your likeness (alluding to a portrait which

was left in the handkerchief). Bad luck to you that you did not leave some. Good-bye. We've drunk your health with your wine."

A WIDE AWAKE PROFESSOR.—This anecdote is as good as it is old. A college professor encouraged his geology class to collect specimens; and one day they deposited a piece of brick, streaked and stained, with their collections, thinking to impose on the doctor. Taking up the specimens, the professor remarked: "This is a piece of baryta from the Cheshire mines." Holding up another, "This is a piece of feldspar from the Portland quarries. And this," coming to the brick, "is a piece of impudence from some member of this class."

DEATHS FROM CHLOROFORM, &c.—In a paper in the *British Medical Journal*, Sir James Y. Simpson compares the remarkably small number of deaths from chloroform in this country as compared with that produced by other potent drugs and accidents. He says that in 1840, out of every 1,000,000 living in England and Wales, 24 were poisoned by opium, and 22 by other medicines improperly given to children below the age of five years. In England and Wales, in five years, from 1863 to 1867, there were poisoned by preparations of opium 632 individuals, by salts of lead 242, by overdoses of medicine 52, by strychnine, 41. There were drowned during the same period while bathing, 707 persons, while sliding or skating, 116, burnt to death by clothes taking fire 2,194, killed by falls in walking 194, suffocated by bed-clothes 2,332 children, suffocated by over-laying 682, died from naval hæmorrhage 572, &c.

A GEOLOGIST UPON FLINTS.—Sir Roderick Murchison upholds the argument for the steam roller in a smart letter to the *Times*. In his neighbourhood cartloads of rough, unbroken flints are poured out in the roadway, and left to be ground down by the light carriage wheels and the feet of horses, for few heavy waggons pass that way. This nuisance is often inflicted when the road is perfectly smooth. "The frequent conversion of our square into this peculiar quarry of chalk flints has resulted in the fact that the central part of the road is already much higher than its sides; and, therefore, in the absence of any other explanation, I am left to suppose that the parochial or public operator who has produced this phenomenon, is determined to convince an old geologist like myself, what a wonderful amount of denudation can be produced by the diurnal friction of comparatively small bodies, and the occasional descent of water from that central elevation which he himself has created in our roadway."

DR. GUTHRIE ON NATIONAL MANNERS.—Speaking at a recent meeting, Dr. Guthrie said:—"Ask a person at Rome to show you the road, and they will always give you a civil and polite answer; but ask any person a question for the same purpose in this country, and they will say, 'Follow your nose, and you will find it.' (Great laughter.) But the blame in this country is not with the lower classes. The blame is with the upper classes, and the reason why, in this country, the lower classes are not polite is because the upper classes are not polite. (Applause.) I remember how astonished I was the first time I was in Paris. I spent the first night with a banker, who took me to a pension—or, as we call it, a boarding-house. When we got there, a servant girl came to the door, and the banker took off his hat and bowed to the servant girl, and called her Mademoiselle, as if she was a lady. (Laughter.) Now the reason why the lower classes there are so polite is because the upper classes are polite and civil to them."

THE ROAD STEAMER.—Mr. R. W. Thomson, C.E., of Edinburgh, has invented a road steamer, whose operations are thus described:—"It runs over hard roads and paved streets without jolting, over soft roads without sinking, and over muddy roads without slipping. It can run with equal ease over grass fields, through ploughed fields, upon ice, through loose sand, and over frozen snow. Though small and light itself, it climbs the severest gradients and draws enormous loads. The wheels, which are of great width, are surrounded by tires of vulcanised india rubber. These thick bands of india rubber enable the road steamer to float over the surface of the ground without the slightest damage to the road, while they likewise protect the machinery from all concussion. The intervention of the elastic tires between the wheel and the road acts, in fact, in the same way as if the engine were running over a tramway of indiarubber."

A 'CUTE EDITOR.—An editor "down South," who had given great offence to his neighbours by publishing in the *Daily Flamingo* certain strictures on the manners and morals of the place, was recently mobbed at his office. A horde of roughs, hired for the occasion, and headed by two ferocious partisans who considered themselves specially aggrieved, repaired one morning to the *Flamingo* office. "Where's the editor?" roared the first bravo, brandishing his bowie-knife. "You'll find him upstairs in his room, sir," replied the printer's devil, trembling from head to foot. Up rushes the first villain, and bursting into the editor's room, looks round, and discovers at last a clerk in a corner—who is, in fact, the editor—in the act of emptying a waste-paper basket. "Where's the editor, you scoundrel?" "He's just gone out, sir. That's his chair; if you'll sit down, I'll go and fetch him," and the editor sidles out of the room, and is just going downstairs, when he is discovered by the second bravo with a six-barrelled revolver. "Where's the editor, you rascal?" shouts he. "He's in his room, sir; you'll find him there; he's quite alone." Then bravo two stalks into the editor's room, and seeing a

man seated in the editorial chair, rushes madly at him, and the two ruffians roll together on the floor in a deadly encounter. Meanwhile, the real editor of the *Flamingo* stands outside the door, quietly taking stock of all that goes on, and the evening edition of the *Flamingo* contains a detailed account of the mob, the deadly encounter of the ringleaders, and the hairbreadth escape of the editor.—*Echo*.

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATH.

MALING.—February 27, at Royston, Mary, the widow of the late Jas. Butler Maling, and daughter of Thos. Pickering, in her forty-sixth year.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending Wednesday, Feb. 23.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Notes issued | £33,926,950 | Government Debt | £11,015,100 |
| | | Other Securities .. | 3,984,900 |
| | | Gold Coin & Bullion | 18,926,950 |
| | £33,926,950 | | £33,926,950 |

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| Proprietors' Capital | £14,553,000 | Government Securities (Inc. dead weight annuity) | £13,831,314 |
| Reserve | 8,967,778 | Other Securities .. | 18,503,247 |
| Public Deposits .. | 9,274,118 | Notes | 11,613,456 |
| Other Deposits .. | 17,295,689 | Gold & Silver Coin | 963,046 |
| Seven Day and other | | | |
| Bills | 450,489 | | |
| | £44,911,072 | | £44,911,072 |

Feb. 24, 1870.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—ENFEBLED EXISTENCE.—This medicine embraces every attribute required in a general and domestic remedy; it overthrows the foundations of disease laid by indigestible food and impure air. In obstructions or congestions of the liver, lungs, bowels, or any other organ, these Pills are especially serviceable and eminently successful. They should be kept in every family, as they are a medicine without a fault for young persons and those of feeble constitutions. They never cause pain or irritate the most sensitive nerves or most tender bowels. Holloway's Pills are the best known purifiers of the blood, and the best promoters of absorption and secretion, which remove all poisonous and obnoxious particles from both solids and fluids.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 23.

We had only a small supply of English wheat for to-day's market, which met a free sale at fully last Monday's rates. Of foreign wheat supplies are moderate, consisting chiefly of American, which is 1s. to 2s. lower. Other descriptions sold in retail at last Monday's prices. The flour trade was dull, without change in prices. Fine malting barley steady at last Monday's rates. Other descriptions the turn lower. Of grinding barley supplies during the week have been large, and we must quote a decline of 6d. to 9d. on the week. Supplies of oats are moderate, and there was a fair sale, at a decline of 6d. per qr. from last Monday. Beans the turn lower, with a slow sale. Peas 1s. lower. There was a fair sale for maize, at a decline of 6d. from last Monday. There are but few cargoes remaining off coast. Wheat and maize sell at about 6d. decline from last Monday's rates. Barley also 3d. lower.

CURRENT PRICES.

| WHEAT— | | PER Qr. | | PER Qr. | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------|----|---------|----|
| | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| Essex and Kent, | red, old .. | 44 | 46 | 31 | 32 |
| | Ditto new .. | 36 | 43 | 31 | 32 |
| | White, old .. | 45 | 48 | 31 | 32 |
| | new .. | 33 | 47 | 31 | 32 |
| | Foreign red .. | 39 | 40 | 31 | 32 |
| | white .. | 43 | 43 | 31 | 32 |
| BARLEY— | | | | | |
| | English malting .. | 26 | 30 | | |
| | Chevalier .. | 34 | 39 | | |
| | Distilling .. | 30 | 34 | | |
| | Foreign .. | 29 | 30 | | |
| MALT— | | | | | |
| | Pale .. | — | — | | |
| | Chevalier .. | — | — | | |
| | Brown .. | 48 | 54 | | |
| BEANS— | | | | | |
| | Ticks .. | 32 | 34 | | |
| | Harrow .. | 35 | 37 | | |
| | Small .. | — | — | | |
| | Egyptian .. | 31 | 37 | | |
| PEAS— | | | | | |
| | Grey .. | — | — | 31 | 32 |
| | Maple .. | — | — | 31 | 32 |
| | White .. | — | — | 31 | 32 |
| | Boilers .. | — | — | 31 | 32 |
| | Foreign, boilers .. | — | — | 31 | 32 |
| RYE .. | | | | 31 | 32 |
| OATS— | | | | | |
| | English feed .. | 18 | 19 | | |
| | potato .. | 22 | 23 | | |
| | Scotch feed .. | — | — | | |
| | potato .. | — | — | | |
| | Irish black .. | 15 | 17 | | |
| | white .. | 16 | 17 | | |
| | Foreign feed .. | 16 | 17 | | |
| FLOUR— | | | | | |
| | Town made .. | 37 | 43 | | |
| | Country Marks .. | 32 | 33 | | |
| | Norfolk & Suffolk | 27 | 28 | | |

BREAD, Saturday, Feb. 26.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for wheaten bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7d. to 7½d.; Household bread, 5½d. to 6½d.

PROVISIONS, Monday, February 23.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 528 firkins butter, and 2998 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 2,693 packages butter, and 115 boxes bacon. There was more business transacted in Irish butter last week at irregular prices, according to condition and qualities. Foreign met a steady sale, at little change in value. There was an improved demand for bacon, and, at the close of the week, an advance of 1s. was generally established.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Feb. 23.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 7,400 head. In the corresponding week in 1869, we received 11,181; in 1868, 1,866; in 1867, 11,286; and in 1866, 10,158 head. Although the supply of stock has been short of an average, and the general quality has been satisfactory, there has been a want of animation in the cattle trade to-day, and the tendency of prices has been in favour of buyers. As regards beasts, the arrivals from our own grazing districts have been on a moderate scale, but owing to the severe weather the supply of foreign has been limited. For all breeds the trade has been dull. The extreme quotation for the best Scots and Crosses has been 5s. per 8lbs. In fact this price has been quite exceptional, many really choice animals being disposed of for less money. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 1,300 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England 510 various breeds, and from Ireland 220 head. The market has been fairly supplied with sheep. Although the demand has not been active, the trade has been steady, and prices have ruled in favour of

buyers, 6s. per 8lbs. being only occasionally obtained for the best Downs and half-breeds, 5s. 10d. being frequently accepted. Lambs have sold at about 7s. to 8s. 6d. per 8lbs. Calves have been quiet, but firm. Pigs have been in limited request, at previous quotations.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

| s. d. s. d. | | s. d. s. d. | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| Inf. coarse beasts | 2 to 3 10 | Prime Southdowns | 5 8 to 6 0 |
| Second quality | 4 0 4 6 | Lambs | 0 0 0 0 |
| Prime large oxen | 4 10 5 0 | Lgs. coarse calves | 4 2 5 0 |
| Prime Scots, &c. | 5 0 5 2 | Prime small | 5 4 6 0 |
| Coarse inf. sheep | 2 4 4 0 | Large hogs | 4 6 5 4 |
| Second quality | 4 2 4 6 | Meatm. porkers | 5 6 5 10 |
| Pr. coarse woolled | 5 2 5 6 | | |

Suckling calves 22s. to 26s., and quarter-old store pigs, 20s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Feb. 23.—The market has been moderately supplied with meat. The trade has been heavy at about late quotations.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, February 23.—Our market continues without any material change, new English alone, by reason of exhaustion, maintaining full values, but all other sorts are drooping under the continued dullness of trade. There is a little animation in best qualities of new Americans and European, yearlings of all kinds remaining totally neglected in spite of their low relative value. Imports for the week ending 26th instant:—Europe 332 bales. America 1882 bales. Total, 2,214 bales. Against 978 bales. the previous week. The Bavarian and Alost markets show no change worthy of notice, prices being reported steady, with a small demand. New York advices (24th instant) report a quiet market at late rates. Mid and East Kents, 7l. 0s., 9l. 15s., to 13l. 0s.; Wealds, 6l. 0s., 7l. 10s., to 8l. 5s.; Sussex, 6l. 15s., 6l. 10s., to 7l. 0s.; Bavarians, 6l. 10s., 8l. 8s., to 10l. 10s.; French, 5l. 5s., 6l. 0s., to 7l. 0s.; Americans, 4l. 10s., 5l. 15s., to 6l.; Yearlings, 1l. 15s., 2l. 15s., to 3l. 10s. The import of foreign hops into London last week consisted of 90 bales from Bremen, 1,503 from New York, and 189 from Ostend.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Feb. 23.—Supplies have come freely to market. There has been a fair demand for most descriptions, at our prices. The import into London last week consisted of 130 bags, 25 barrels from Odessa, &c., and 4 cases from Oporto. English Shaws, 130s. to 135s. per ton; English Regents, 70s. to 95s. per ton; English rocks, 70s. to 75s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 70s. to 110s. per ton; French, 60s. to 70s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Feb. 23.—English cloverseed continues to come out very slowly; fine qualities inquired for, and would bring high prices; foreign red samples are held with much firmness; importers still looking for advanced rates. Choice English trefoil was very dear, with a steady sale. Useful foreign qualities were held for rather more money. Canary seed keeps up in value for choice samples of English, as well as the best sorts of foreign. Foreign tares realised extreme rates.

COVENT GARDEN, Feb. 26.—We have experienced a slight improvement in the general trade of the markets, most of the best goods having been cleared from the growers' stands at a better price. Of forced vegetables there is a better supply, comprising asparagus, sea-kale, French beans, and frame potatoes, the latter realising from 2s. to 8s. per lb. The supplies from Cornwall and the Channel Islands and Continent continue regular, and rather on the increase. Flowers consist principally of heaths, primulas, cinerarias, hyacinths, tulips, &c.

WOOL, Monday, Feb. 23.—Although the business doing has been only moderate, the market has been firm, in sympathy with the colonial produce, and prices have been supported.

OIL, Monday, Feb. 23.—Lined and rape oils have been dealt in to a moderate extent, at full prices. Olive has been quiet. Palm and Cocoa-nut have sold slowly.

TALLOW, Monday, Feb. 23.—The market has been quiet but firm, at 46s. per cwt. spot. Town tallow, 44s. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Feb. 23.—Market heavy, with a reduction on last day's rates. Huttons Wallsend 20s., ditto South 17s. 9d., Haswell 18s., Hartlepool original 18s., Kellon 16s. 6d., Lambtons 17s. 6d., Tunstall 15s., Eden Main 16s., Hartley's 15s. 3d. Ships fresh arrived, 45; ships left from last day, 45; ships at sea, 4.

Advertisements.

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QUEENSLAND under the Land Act of 1868 and the Immigration Act of 1869. Land acquired on easy terms. Assisted and Free Passages. Information and particulars to be obtained on application.

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SHARES, £25 each, may be paid in one sum, or by Monthly Subscription of 6s. per share.

INVESTING MEMBERS receive 5 per cent. Interest, and Share of Surplus Profits.

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BRACELETS, STRAP, 18-CARAT £5 0

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BRACELETS, NINEVEH, " £10 0

BRACELETS, SAXON, " £15 0

BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, " £2 10

BROOCHES, NINEVEH, " £3 0

BROOCHES, SAXON, " £4 0

BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, " £5 0

CHAINS, PRINCESS, " £2 0

CHAINS, CYLINDER, " £3 0

CHAINS, CURB, " £4 0

CHAINS, CABLE, " £5 0

EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, " £1 10

EARRINGS, SAXON, " £2 5

EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, " £3 5

EARRINGS, NINEVEH, " £4 10

LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, " £1 0

LOCKETS, CORDED, " £2 10

LOCKETS, CROSS, " £4 0

GOLD WATCHES, LADIES', £8 8

GOLD WATCHES, " £10 10

GOLD WATCHES, ½-PLATE, £15 15

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11

GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE, £16 16

GOLD WATCHES, " £20 0

GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10

GOLD WATCHES, " £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLOCKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLOCKS, " (STRIKING), £7 7

CLOCKS, " " (ON GONG), £12 12

CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0

CLOCKS, " " £10 12

CLOCKS, " " £14 0

CLOCKS, " (ORMOLU), £10 0

CLOCKS, " " £15 0

THE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,

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SPECIAL ADVANTAGES.

Claims up to £300 paid within 15 days after proof of Death, instead of requiring the usual three months' notice.

Policies payable during the lifetime of the Assured without extra Premium.

A FREE POLICY given for the total Premiums paid after 5 years, if unable to continue payment.

A Bonus from 24 to 50 per cent. was declared on Policies to December 31st, 1868.

ACTIVE LOCAL AND DISTRICT AGENTS WANTED.

For particulars, apply to JOHN G. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE GOVERNMENT BILL.

A MEETING of the CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM, on THURSDAY, February 24, to consider the Education Bill introduced by her Majesty's Government.

A circular issued by the Officers of the League, on the day following the introduction of the Bill, pointing out the objectionable features of the Measure, was laid before the Executive Committee, together with replies from sixty-eight Branches of the League, generally adopting and sustaining the objections of the Officers.

These Replies and Resolutions, forwarded by various Branch Committees, were considered by the Executive, and it was—

RESOLVED—

That in order to render the Government Bill a complete or satisfactory measure, the following amendments are necessary:—

1.—School Boards to be established in all districts, instead of only in those districts in which Education is declared to be unsatisfactory after inquiry by the Privy Council.

2.—Such Boards to be elected immediately on the passing of the Act, and to be required to provide, without delay, for the Educational necessities of their districts.

3.—In districts not included in boroughs, School Boards to be elected by the ratepayers generally, voting by ballot.

4.—Compulsory attendance of children at school to be made imperative, instead of being left to the discretion of School Boards.

5.—Admission to Schools established or maintained by School Boards to be free.

6.—No creed, catechism, or tenet peculiar to any sect, to be taught in schools under the management of the School Boards, or receiving grants from local rates. In all other Schools receiving Government aid, the religious teaching to be at a distinct time, either before or after ordinary school business, and provision to be made that attendance at such religious teaching shall not be compulsory, and that there shall be no disability for non-attendance.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED—

That the Branches of the League be requested to hold Public Meetings without delay, and to forward Petitions in support of the Amendments above stated; and that the following Form of Petition be suggested to them for adoption:—

"TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

"THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED INHABITANTS OF

"Sheweth—

"That your Petitioners are deeply impressed with the deficiencies of the existing means of elementary education in England and Wales, and are convinced of the necessity of Legislative action, in order to establish a National System of Education. That they have learned, with much satisfaction, that a bill has been introduced into your honourable House, by her Majesty's Ministers, for the purpose of providing the means of instruction for every child in the Kingdom.

"That in the opinion of your Petitioners, this purpose can be secured only by the immediate formation of elected School Boards in every district, with power to establish elementary and other schools where necessary, maintained by local rates, supplemented by Government grants, and placed under local management, with Government inspection.

"That your Petitioners consider that, in all schools established by Local Boards, and in all schools receiving grants from local rates, instruction should be unsectarian, your Petitioners believing that it would be unjust to apply local rates to the teaching of the tenets peculiar to any religious sect, and believing also that if School Boards are permitted to exercise a discretionary power as to religious teaching in their schools, great confusion and excitement will be caused throughout the country, by the election of such Boards being made the occasion of theological conflict in every parish, and that such conflict will be continued from year to year, at each successive election, thus importing into such elections religious prejudices and animosities, encouraging a spirit of sectarian rivalry, and causing the selection of members of School Boards to turn upon theological opinions instead of upon personal fitness.

"That your Petitioners are further convinced that nothing short of a general system of compulsory attendance at school will satisfy the educational requirements of the country; and that the School Boards should, therefore, be empowered and required by law to see that all children of school age, who are neither at school nor at work, shall receive instruction.

"Having regard to the compulsory attendance of children at school, and to the maintenance of schools by local rates, levied upon all classes of the population, your Petitioners are further convinced that admission to schools established by School Boards should be free.

"Your Petitioners therefore pray that in any measure passed by your honourable House, for establishment of a system of national education, provisions may be inserted to give effect to the views of your Petitioners, as above stated, in such manner as to your honourable House may appear expedient.

"And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

NOTE.—Petitions must be written, not printed. The signatures must begin on the same sheet as the Petition. The signatures, or marks, must be originals, not copies. Parliamentary Petitions may be sent to Members for presentation, post free, in parcels open at both ends, marked outside "Parliamentary Petitions," and weighing not more than 32 ounces.

The second reading of the Bill is fixed for the 14th of March, and it is most urgent that Petitions should be sent up before that day.

Forms of Petition may be had on application at the Central Offices of the League, 47, Ann-street, Birmingham.

By order of the Executive Committee,

FRANCIS ADAMS, Secretary.

47, Ann-street, Birmingham.

February 25, 1870.

ATTRACTIVE NOVELTIES commencing February 14th.—Professor Pepper's Lecture Entertainment, "On the last New and Wonderful Ghost Effects, and other Optical Resources of the Polytechnic." The Romantic Tale of KIP VAN WINKLE, with extraordinary Diorama and Spectral Scenes. The story narrated by Mr. Artis, Teacher of Elocution; Vocalist, Miss Pearson; and the New Music by Mr. Frewin, Herr Schalkenbach, and Band. Professor Pepper's Annual Course "On Astronomy and Spectrum Analysis," commences in Lent, at the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC. Open from 12 till 5 and 7 till 10. Admission to the whole, 1s.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

OPENING of the NEW LINE between SHEFFIELD and CHESTERFIELD.

The New and Direct Line of Railway between SHEFFIELD and CHESTERFIELD was OPENED for TRAFFIC on TUESDAY, February 1st.

The Opening of this Railway places Sheffield upon the Main Line of the Midland Railway. The Through Trains between the North and South and North and West of England run direct to and from the New Station, Sheffield, via the New Line.

A New and Improved Service of Express and Fast Trains has been established between Sheffield and London. Through carriages are run between Sheffield and London by all Trains.

A considerable Reduction has been made in the Fares from Sheffield to places in the South and West, and the under-mentioned REDUCED FARES have been adopted between SHEFFIELD and LONDON:—

SINGLE JOURNEY.—First class, 28s.; Second class, 21s.; Third class, 18s. 1d.

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The Trains to and from London and the South and West are in connection at Sheffield with the Trains to and from Rotherham, and Through Booking has been put in operation between Rotherham and London and the South and West generally.

For further particulars of Trains see Time-tables issued by the Company.

JAMES ALLPORT, General Manager.

Derby, Feb., 1870.

METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON.

On TUESDAY, March 8, 1870, C. H. SPURGEON will deliver a LECTURE in the above place, in aid of the Funds of the PASTOR'S COLLEGE. Subject—"Triumphs of the Gospel in Madagascar." The Lecture will be illustrated by Dissolving Views, painted expressly for this Lecture.

Commence at Seven o'clock. Admission, Sixpence. Tickets may be had at the Tabernacle, Newington.

THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

Patron, Her Most Gracious Majesty the QUEEN; President, his Grace the Duke of ARGYLL, K.T., instituted 1757, for Delivering Poor Married Women at their own Habitations—greatly NEEDS additional SUBSCRIBERS. Number of women delivered last year, 3,439. A Pamphlet, with a brief description of the Charity, its object and advantages, will be gladly forwarded on application. Subscriptions and Donations are respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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JOHN SEABROOK, Secretary.

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Testimonials will be shown, and references of the highest character given and required.—Address, A. O. G., care of Messrs. J. and R. Morley, 18, Wood-street, E.C.

HEATHFIELD, STONYGATE, LEICESTER.

The MISSES MIALI BEG to INFORM their numerous friends that from the next quarter (25th March) their ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES will be REMOVED to their New Residence, at the above address.

The House and Ground are in every respect most suitable for a Ladies' School, having ample accommodation, and being situated in a delightful and healthy neighbourhood, within easy access of the town.

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| Drawing and Painting | • | Mr. J. Hoch. |
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The above branches of education are taught exclusively by the masters assigned to them. The general English education is under the immediate direction of the Principals and a competent staff of Governesses.

References to parents of pupils, and others, if required.

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COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR,

PREPARED FROM RICE, the staple food of more than Three Hundred Millions (300,000,000) of people, is unequalled for Blanc-Mange, Custards, Puddings, Cakes, Soups, &c., and is the most wholesome and easily-digestible Food for Children and Invalids.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR

Makes a delicious Blanc-Mange and Baked Pudding.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR

Makes nice Infants' Food, and for thickening Milk.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR

Makes the best Cup-Pudding, and most delicious Custard.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR

Is the best article ever offered to the public.

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EDWIN LANKESTER, M.D., F.R.S., says:—

"Rice-Flour is Corn-Flour, and I regard this preparation of Messrs. Colman's as superior to anything of the kind now before the public."

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RANGES, with Close or Open Fire, Roast in Front, and are unsurpassed for economy, cleanliness, general convenience, heating baths, and the prevention of smoky chimneys. Prize Medals—London, Dublin, and Paris.

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